LEATHERHEAD IN KOREA

By SSGT NORVAL E. PACKWOOD, JR.

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STAFF SERGEANT NORVAL E. PACKWOOD, JR.

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THIS BOOK IS DEDICATED WITH DEEPEST RESPECT TO THE MEMORY OF THOSE IMMORTAL MARINES WHO FOUGHT SO BRAVELY IN KOREA ... WHO SHALL NEVER READ IT...

Preface

BrigGen Homer Litzenberg

When Staff Sergeant Norval E. Packwood, Jr., went to Korea in 1951 as a combat artist for the *Marine Corps Gazette*, his assignment was to portray the personal, human side of the war that so often escapes the lens of the camera. With the tired and war-begrimed — but still cocky and hell-for-leather — men of the First Marine Division, Packwood found what he was after. But in addition to the serious, grim, and often tragic nature of these men's business, Packwood also uncovered their inexhaustible store of humor, the peculiar brand of humor that is the trademark of American fighting men everywhere and particularly, in this case, of the United States Marines.

Humor among servicemen may be raucous, gentle, sarcastic, or profane, but it is always present on the battlefield. It may be directed at the enemy, at the situation "back home," at each other, or at life in general. But always it springs from that intense, close association of one man with another which is found only in combat.

Here life is stripped of the niceties of custom and the walls of conventionality that man erects around himself in a more "civilized" existence. Here the realities are life and death, and the facts of life are reduced to their simplest terms—sorrow and joy, heat and cold, bravery and fear, hunger and a full stomach, love and hate. And here too, I think, man experiences both the zenith and the abyss of his emotions. There is no elation greater than the exultation of wresting a hilltop from the enemy. There is no cold more penetrating than that of a winter battlefield. There is no experience more ennobling than the deep affection, quiet understanding, and fierce loyalty of a Marine for his buddies. And neither, I think, is there a brand of humor more genuine than that of the fighting man.

Battlefield humor may be slapstick, but it is not contrived;

it may be sophisticated, but it is not effete; it may be satiric, but not sadistic; it may be bawdy, but not really dirty. And this also ought to be said: Whether his jests are delivered as bluntly as a tank or as delicately as a rapier, they are equally devastating.

But what—some people are bound to ask—does a fighting man find in war that is so funny? Or, to carry this a step further, what is so funny about the war in Korea as to warrant publication of a cartoon book? The answer, of course, is that war itself is not funny, but the way in which men live and fight a war can be, and usually is, a target for the fighting man's humor. The butt of his every joke is some facet of his daily life in the combat zone. The frustrations of regulations, the eccentricities of a comrade or a senior, the food he eats, the weather he endures, the equipment he fights with, the geography and inhabitants of the country—all are ripe and ever-present subjects.

For example, the Marines' fight against six Chinese Communist divisions in the subzero breakout from the Chosin Reservoir was anything but funny. But when you find two half-frozen Marines—as Packwood has done—trying to heat a can of cold rations over a tiny flame, and one says to the other, "The bottom's burnt and the top is cold—try to get a couple bites out of the middle before it freezes," then I say you have combat humor at its best.

As any military man will tell you, humor is a necessity on the battlefield. Man would be hard put at times to keep his sanity if it were not for his innate funnybone. When a fighting outfit loses its ability to laugh, its morale is at a dangerously low point. Without high morale, there is no real will to fight, and without the will to fight there can be no victory.

In this respect, I think it is well that Sergeant Packwood has dedicated this book to the men who helped make victory possible in Korea—our fallen comrades of the First Marine Division who gave their lives in battle. For we remember them best—as they would have us do—as we lived and served and laughed together.

Homer Litzenberg

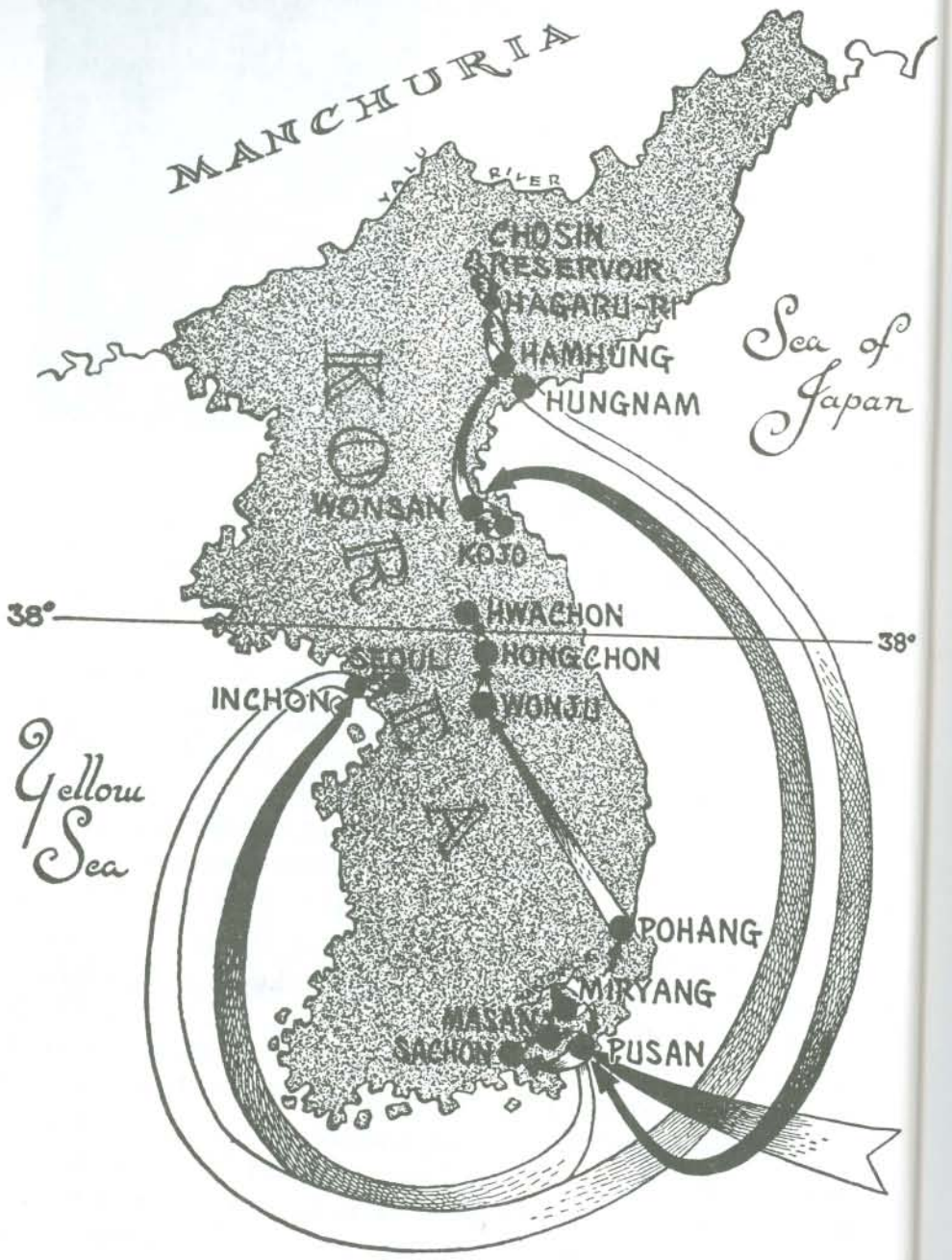
Homer Litzenberg
Brigadier General, U. S. Marine Corps

Staff Sergeant Norval E. Packwood, Jr. is left-handed. This gives him the advantage of approaching life from the port side, as it were, and perhaps explains why his cartoon humor has become as popular as a ten-day furlough. Packwood hit his stride when he entered the Marine Corps on 23 June 1948. He'll never forget, he says, his experiences in boot camp. And neither will the thousands of other Marines, their friends, and relatives who've snickered their way through his first cartoon book, *Leatherhead in Boot Camp*. Yet it's safe to wager that *Leatherhead in Korea* will surpass it, for Packwood has mastered that difficult art of making a combat cartoon come alive even when viewed from the cozy comfort of a lounge chair.

Pack, as he is known among his colleagues, is considerably more than a cartoonist, although that ought to be enough for any one man. He can turn out handsome, full-color magazine covers or illustrations for fiction or scholarly articles with the same dexterity. And he frequently does, especially now that he's a civilian again and art director for *Leatherneck* magazine.

For the sake of the record, it ought to be said that Packwood was born in Chicago in 1928 and attended Soldan High School in St. Louis, George Williams College, Northwestern University, Chicago Art Institute, Abbott School of Art, and George Washington University. After boot camp, the Marine Corps reassigned him to Parris Island as staff artist for *The Boot*, the weekly camp paper. In 1949 he was transferred to the *Marine Corps Gazette*, the professional magazine for Marines, and finished his hitch there in June. Pack is married, the father of a baby boy and—oh yes—drives one of those little British cars.

US MC



THE FIRST MARINE DIVISION • IN KOREA •

from 2 August, 1950 to 22 April, 1951

2 AUGUST—12 SEPTEMBER
THE PUSAN PERIMETER

15 SEPTEMBER
THE INCHON LANDING

17 SEPTEMBER—7 OCTOBER
THE SEOUL OPERATION

25 OCTOBER—27 OCTOBER
THE WONSAN LANDING

27 NOVEMBER—30 NOVEMBER
ATTACKS BY CHINESE COMMUNIST FORCES

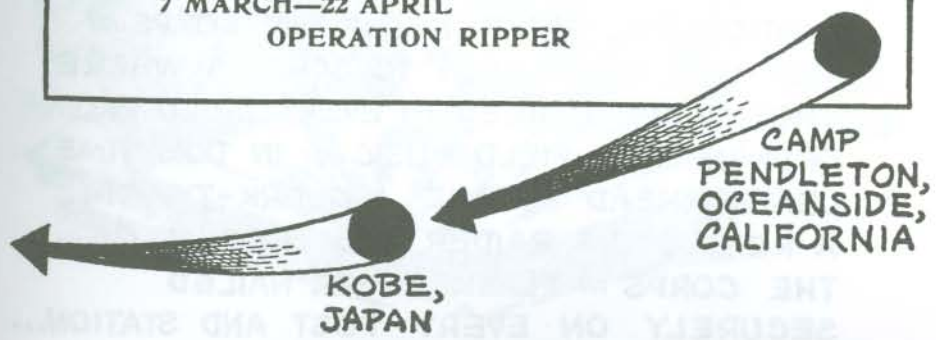
1 DECEMBER—11 DECEMBER
BREAKOUT FROM THE RESERVOIR

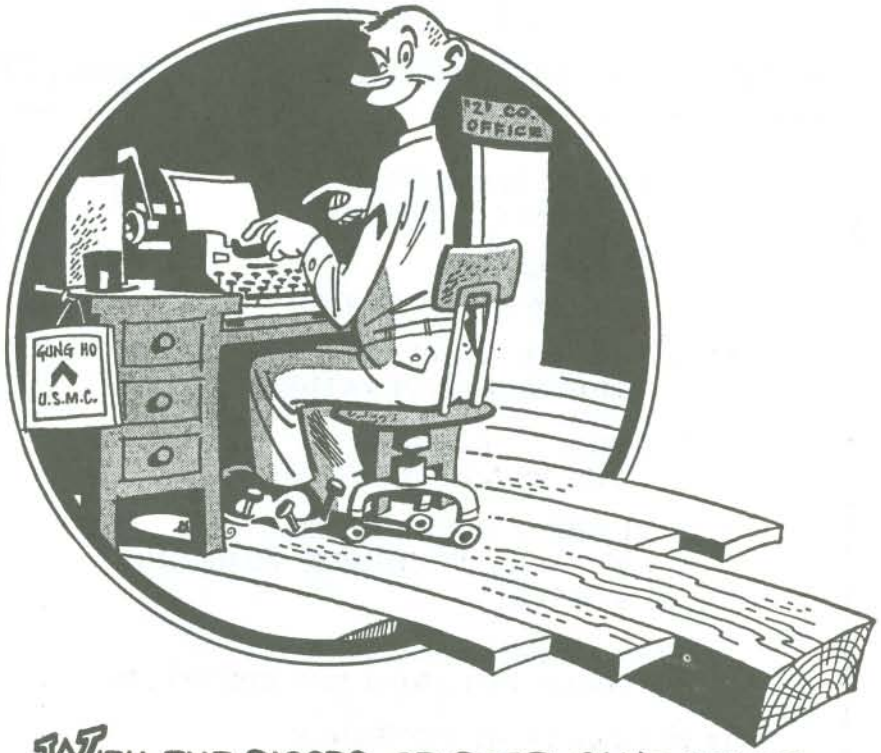
12 DECEMBER—15 DECEMBER
HUNGNAM EVACUATION

10 JANUARY, 1951—15 FEBRUARY
POHANG GUERRILLA HUNT

21 FEBRUARY—4 MARCH
OPERATION KILLER

7 MARCH—22 APRIL
OPERATION RIPPER

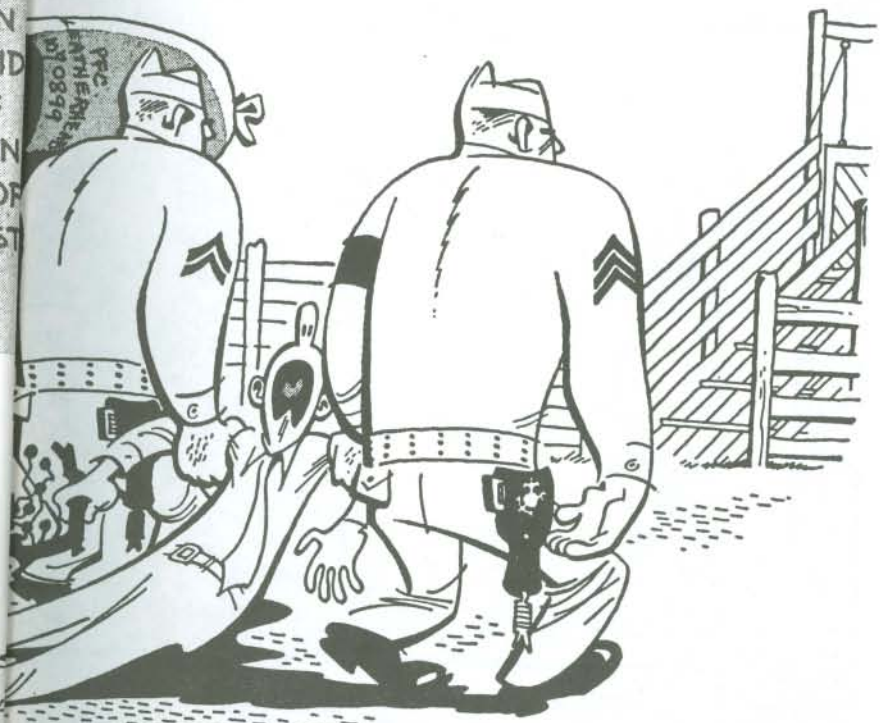


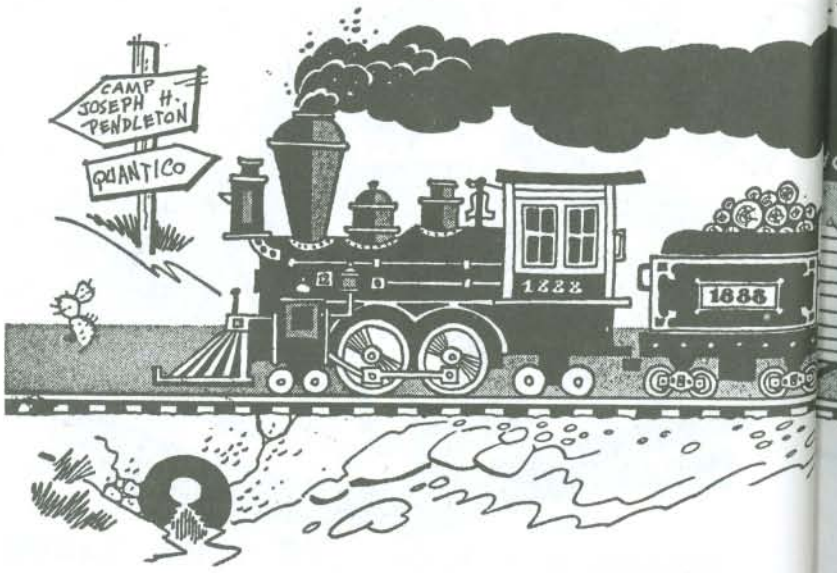


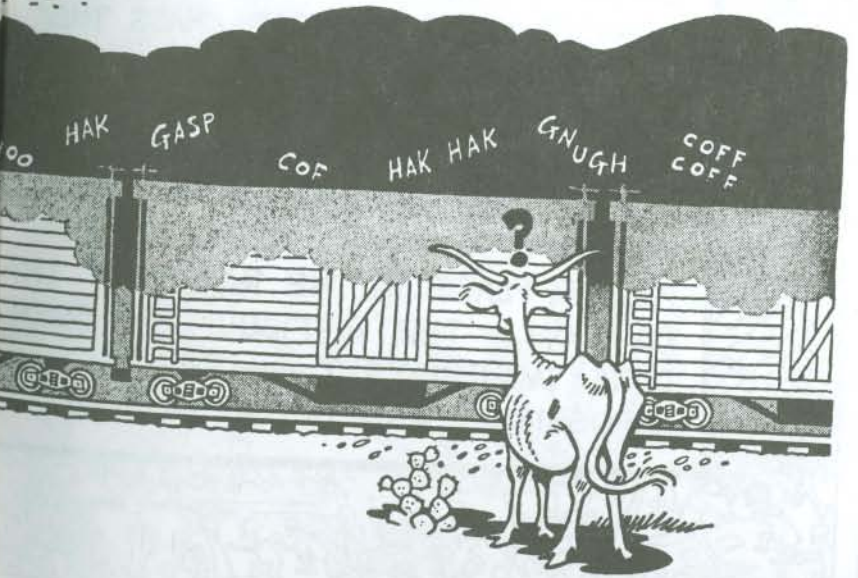
WITH THE RIGORS OF BOOT CAMP BEHIND, PFC. LEATHERHEAD AND MANY MARINES LIKE HIM WERE SCATTERED TO THE FOUR CORNERS OF THE GLOBE AND ANCHOR /// THE INFANTRY, BACKBONE OF THE CORPS, CLAIMED SOME; OTHERS WENT INTO AVIATION, THE BACKBONE OF THE CORPS /// THE REST WERE SENT TO SCHOOLS WHERE THEY WERE TRAINED IN EVERY FIELD FROM ORDNANCE TO FIELD MUSIC /// IN DUE TIME LEATHERHEAD BECAME A CLERK-TYPIST... A REMINGTON RAIDER... BACKBONE OF THE CORPS /// PLANKS WERE NAILED SECURELY ON EVERY POST AND STATION...

IN JUNE, 1950 AN EXPLOSION ON A LITTLE-KNOWN PENINSULA CALLED KOREA SPLINTERED SOLID MAHOGANY PLANKS AS FAR EAST AS QUANTICO...

ONCE AGAIN MARINES WERE CALLED U
TO SERVE THEIR COUNTRY ON FOREIGN
SHORES ... CAMP PENDLETON, OCEANSID
CALIFORNIA BECAME THE CENTER OF
FEVERISH ACTIVITY, FOR HERE BEGAN
THE PROCESS OF MOLDING MARINES OF
EVERY SPECIALTY INTO THE HARD FIST
THE **FIRST MARINE DIVISION...**

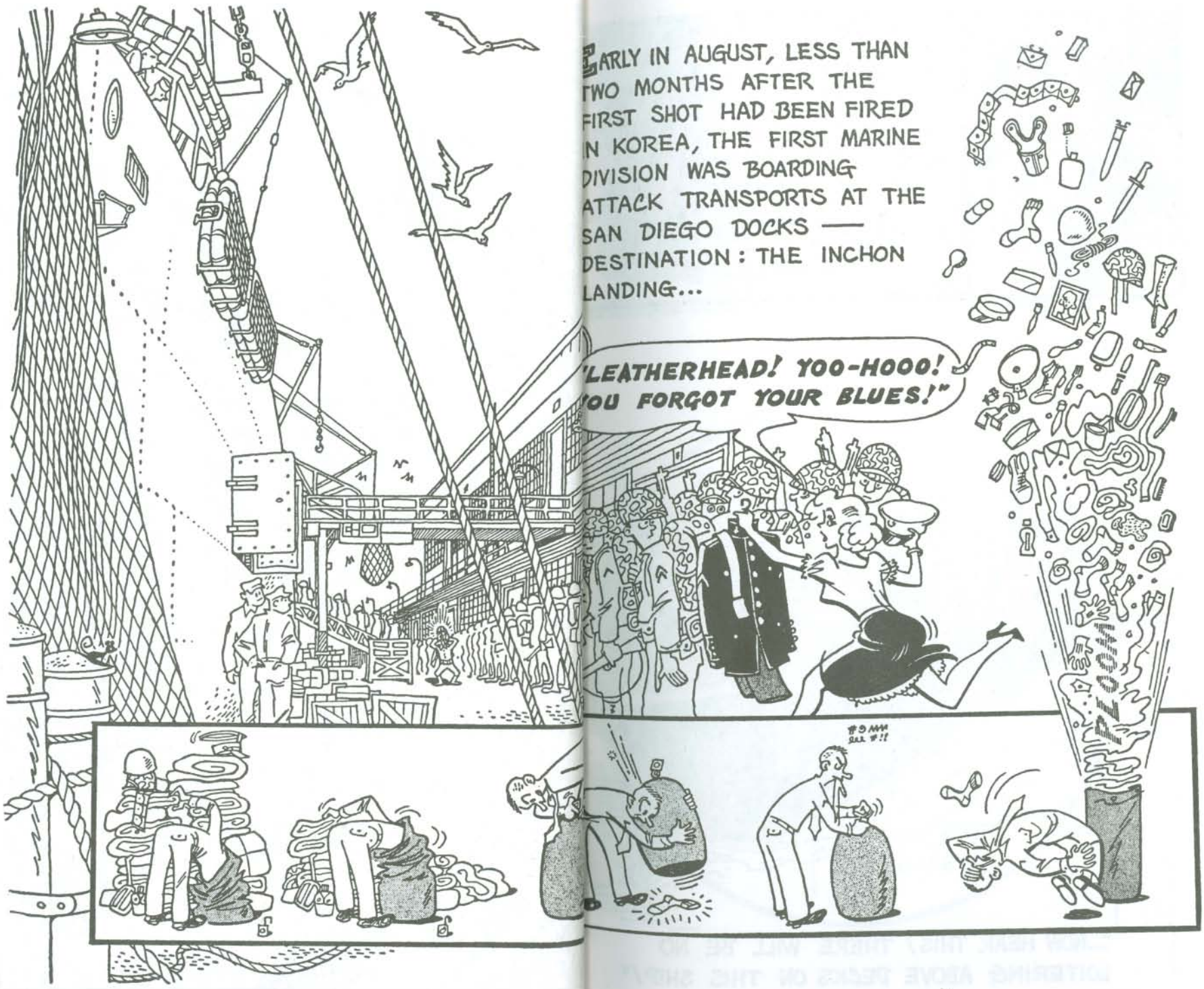




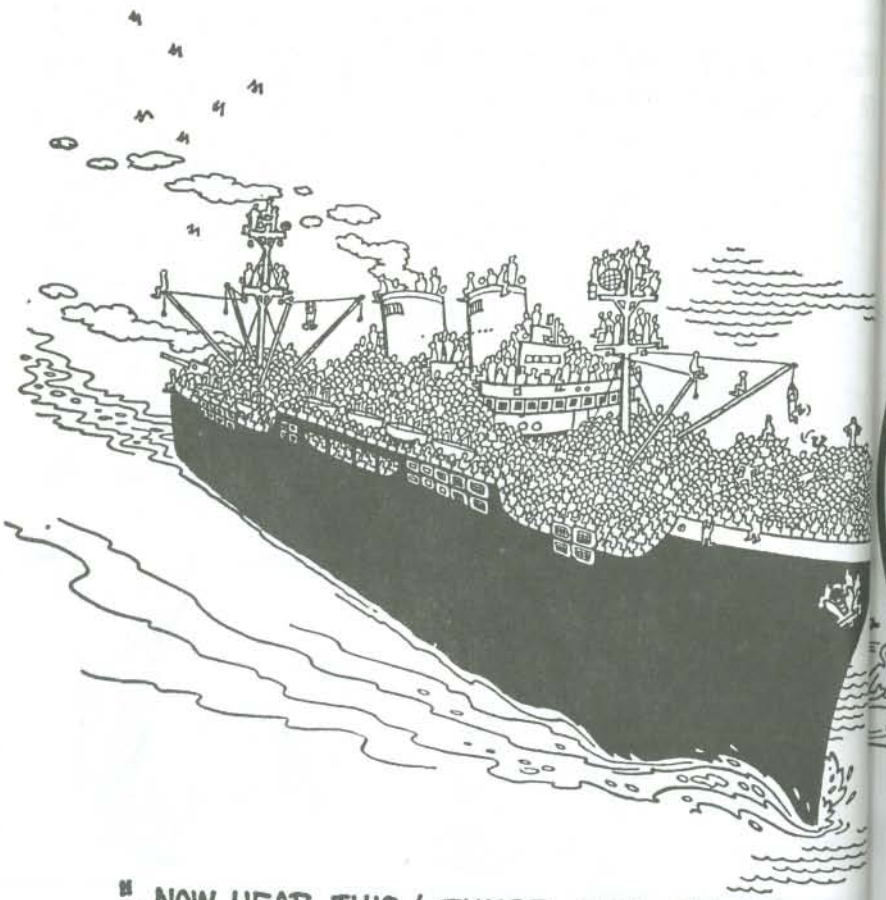


THOUSANDS OF REGULARS AND RESERVES FLOODED THROUGH THE GATES OF CAMP PENDLETON /// AMID THIS SEA OF REGIMENTED CHAOS THE MARINE CORPS PROCEEDED TO PERFORM A DAILY SERIES OF ADMINISTRATIVE MIRACLES UNTIL, IN A FEW SHORT WEEKS, EVERY "COMBAT READY" MARINE HAD FOUND HIS PROPER PLACE IN THE RANKS OF THE DIVISION /// THE DIFFICULT HAD BEEN DONE IMMEDIATELY —— THE IMPOSSIBLE WAS SOON TO COME...

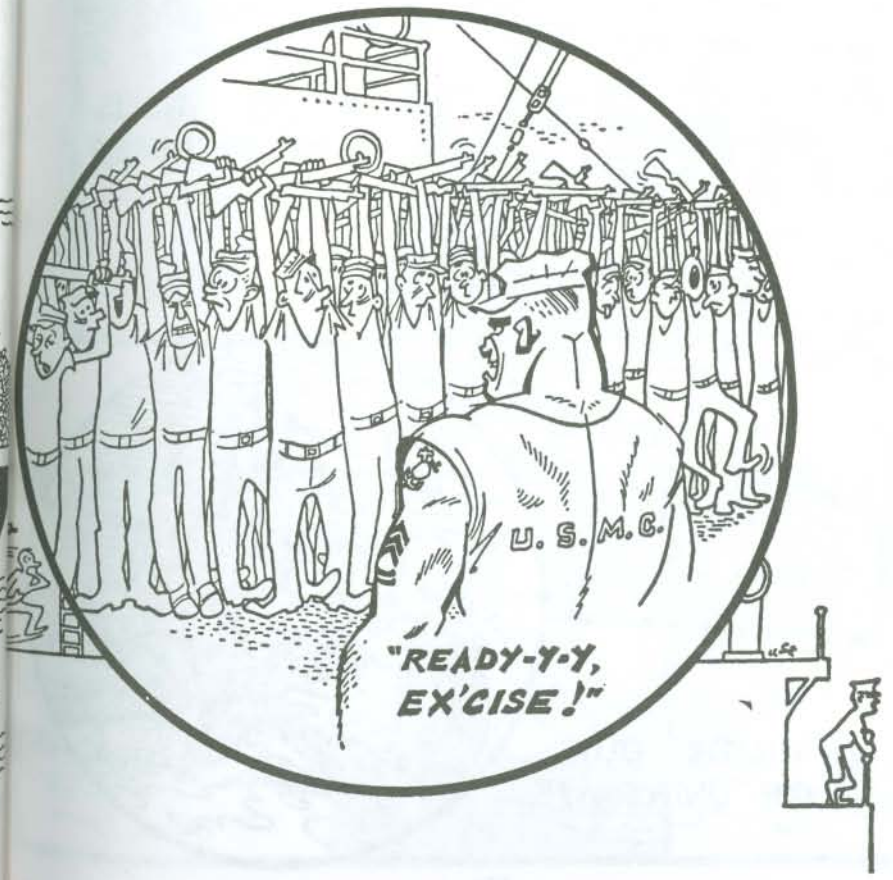
"BUCK UP, KID... KOREA CAN'T BE AS BAD AS THIS!"


EARLY IN AUGUST, LESS THAN TWO MONTHS AFTER THE FIRST SHOT HAD BEEN FIRED IN KOREA, THE FIRST MARINE DIVISION WAS BOARDING ATTACK TRANSPORTS AT THE SAN DIEGO DOCKS — DESTINATION: THE INCHON LANDING...
"LEATHERHEAD! YOO-HOOO! YOU FORGOT YOUR BLUES!"

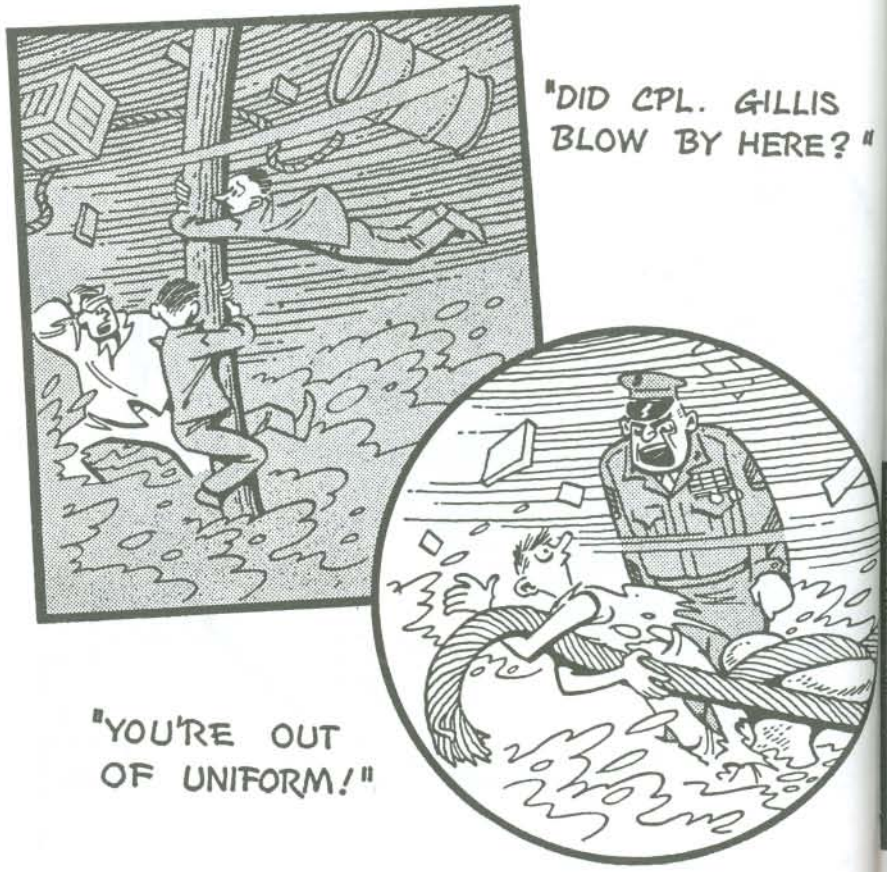
"KEEPIN' A WOMAN?"

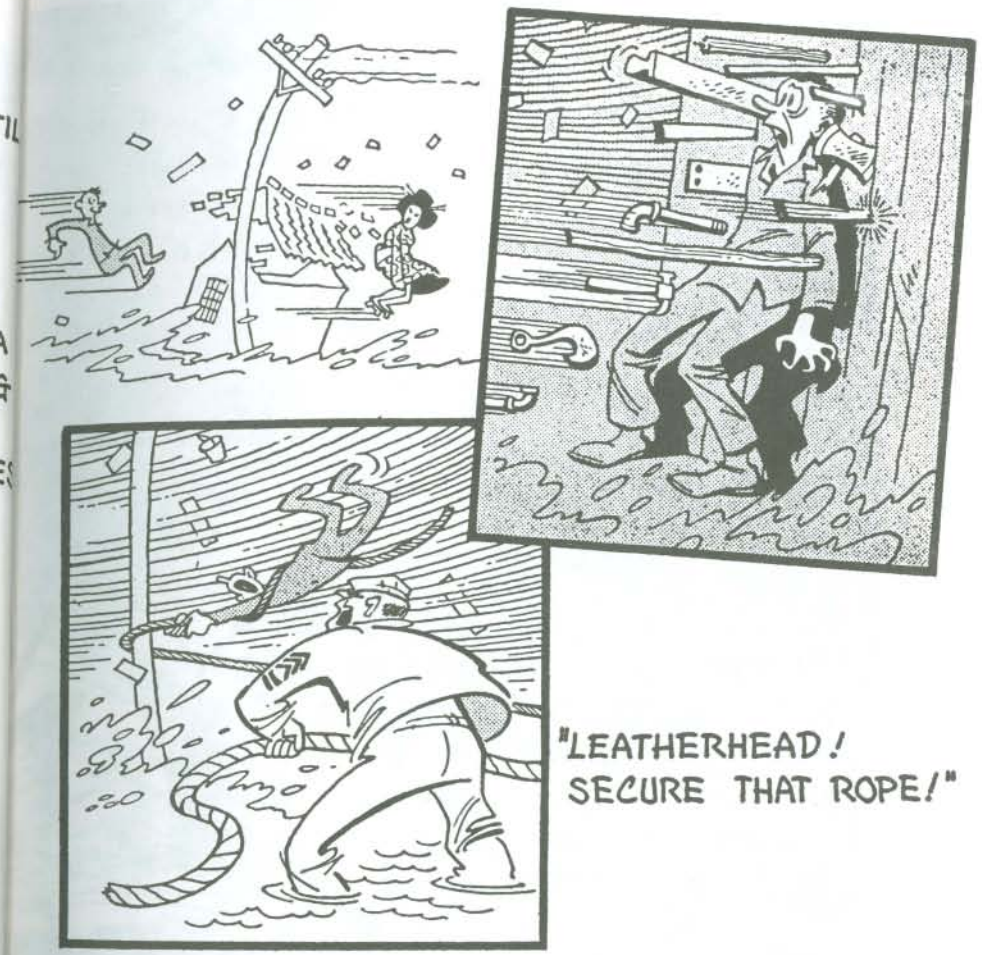


"...NOW HEAR THIS! THERE WILL BE NO LOITERING ABOVE DECKS ON THIS SHIP!"

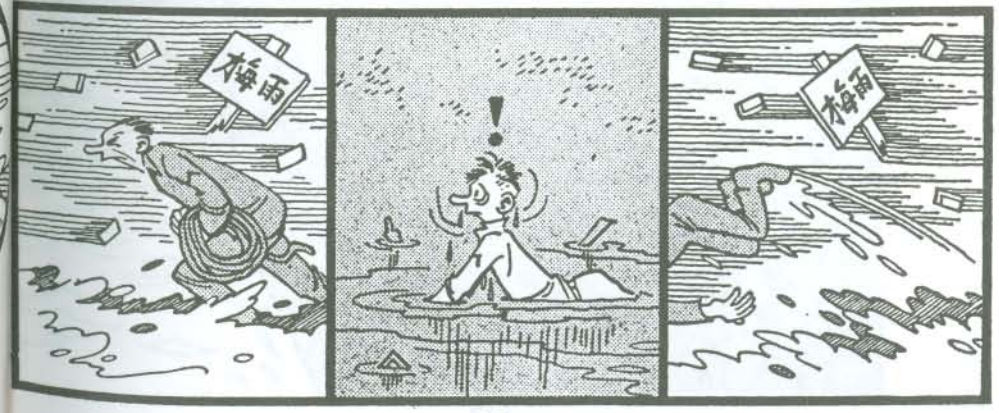


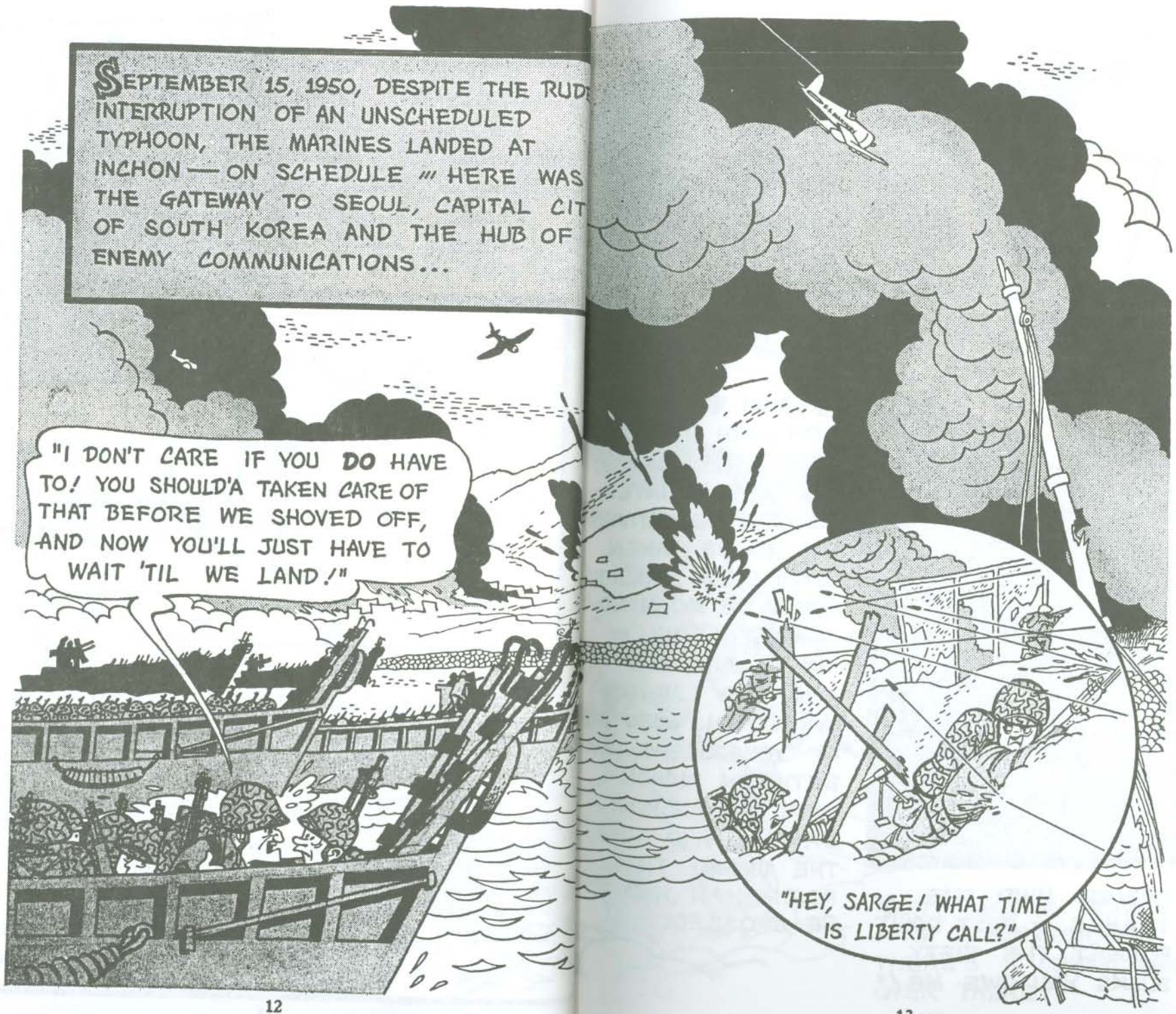
WHEN THE DIVISION LANDED AT KOBE, JAPAN THERE WAS ONLY A MATTER OF A FEW DAYS UNTIL IT WAS SCHEDULED TO INVADE THE PORT OF INCHON /// DURING THIS TIME, PORT AUTHORITIES AT KOBE WERE FACED WITH THE HERCULEAN TASK OF UNLOADING THOUSANDS OF TONS OF SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT FROM MORE THAN A SCORE OF VESSELS, SORTING IT, AND RELOADING IT FOR THE ASSAULT /// IT WAS DURING THESE FEW DAYS THAT HARBOR, SHIPS AND SCHEDULES WERE SHATTERED BY AN UNEXPECTED AND FEROCIOUS ENEMY /// TYPHOON "JANE" WAS CLOCKED AT 110 M.P.H...





EYE OF THE STORM...

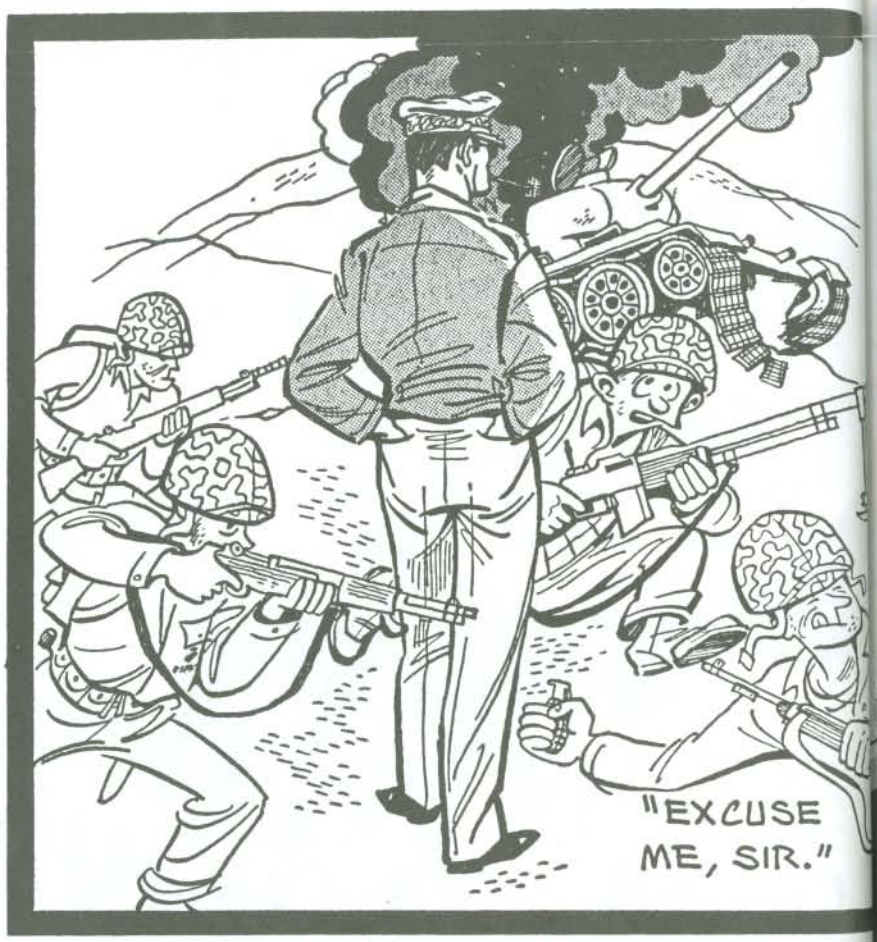



SEPTEMBER 15, 1950, DESPITE THE RUDE INTERRUPTION OF AN UNSCHEDULED TYPHOON, THE MARINES LANDED AT INCHON — ON SCHEDULE /// HERE WAS THE GATEWAY TO SEOUL, CAPITAL CITY OF SOUTH KOREA AND THE HUB OF ENEMY COMMUNICATIONS...
"I DON'T CARE IF YOU DO HAVE TO! YOU SHOULD'A TAKEN CARE OF THAT BEFORE WE SHOVED OFF, AND NOW YOU'LL JUST HAVE TO WAIT 'TIL WE LAND!"
"HEY, SARGE! WHAT TIME IS LIBERTY CALL?"

"NEVER MIND THE THANKS /// JUST DON'T FORGET THE FIFTY BUCKS YOU OWE ME!"

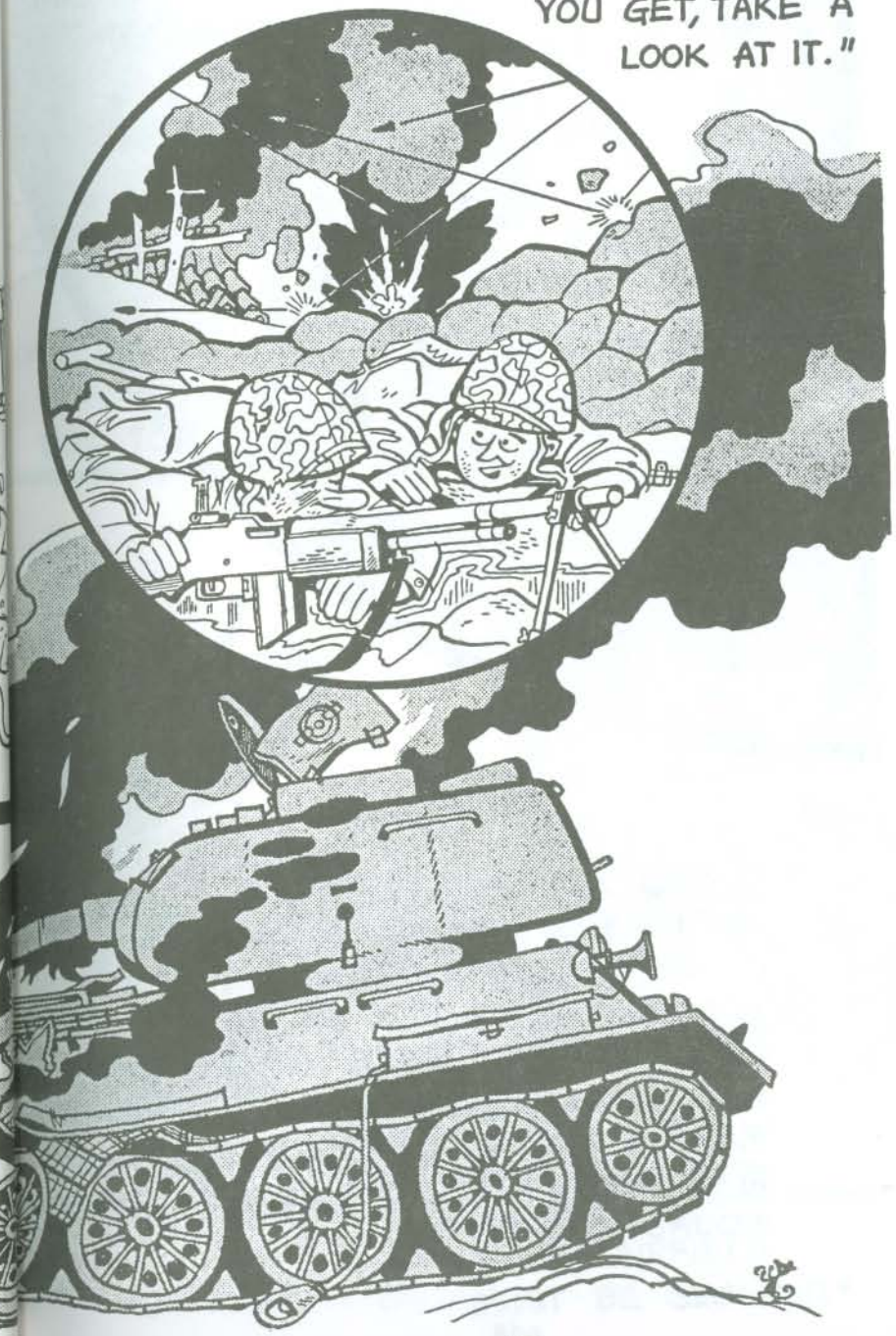
INCHON WAS SECURE WITHIN 24 HOURS AFTER THE LANDING, BUT SEVERAL INTER-MEDIATE OBJECTIVES HAD TO BE TAKEN BEFORE AN ASSAULT COULD BE MOUNTED AGAINST SEOUL /// KIMPO AIRFIELD AND THE LARGE INDUSTRIAL SUBURB OF YONGDONGPO LAY BETWEEN INCHON AND THE ANCIENT CAPITAL, AND THEN THE BROAD TIDAL RIVER HAN HAD TO BE CROSSED...

"DON'T TAKE MY PICTURE —I'M A CORRESPONDENT! THERE'S A COMBAT MAN OVER THERE!"

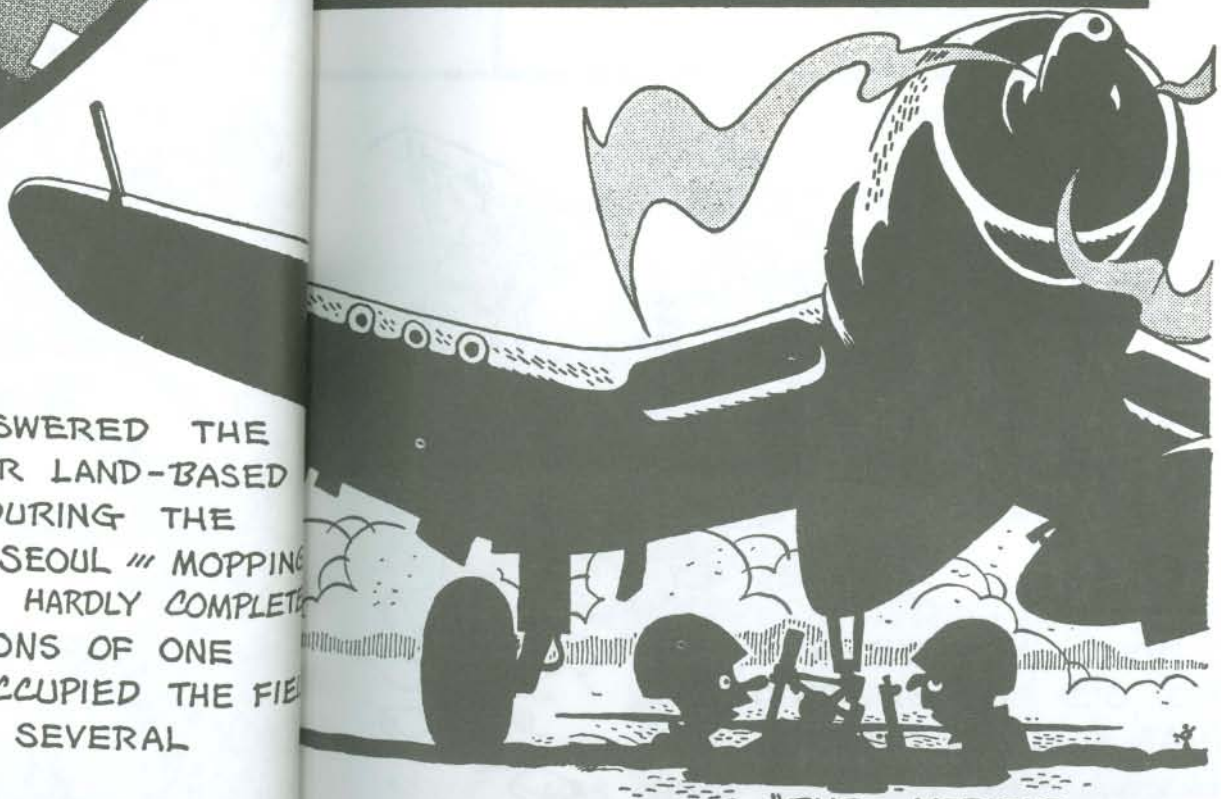


"DAMMIT, I THOUGHT I TOLD YOU THAT YOU COULDN'T KNOCK OUT A T-34 WITH A 2.36!"

"THIS HERE IS RIGHT PRETTY COUNTRY" FIRST CHANCE YOU GET, TAKE A LOOK AT IT."

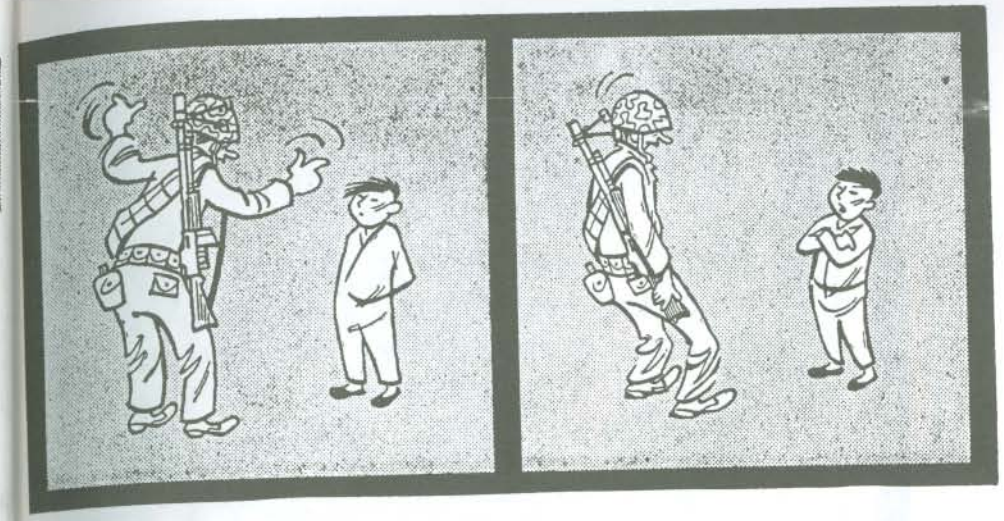


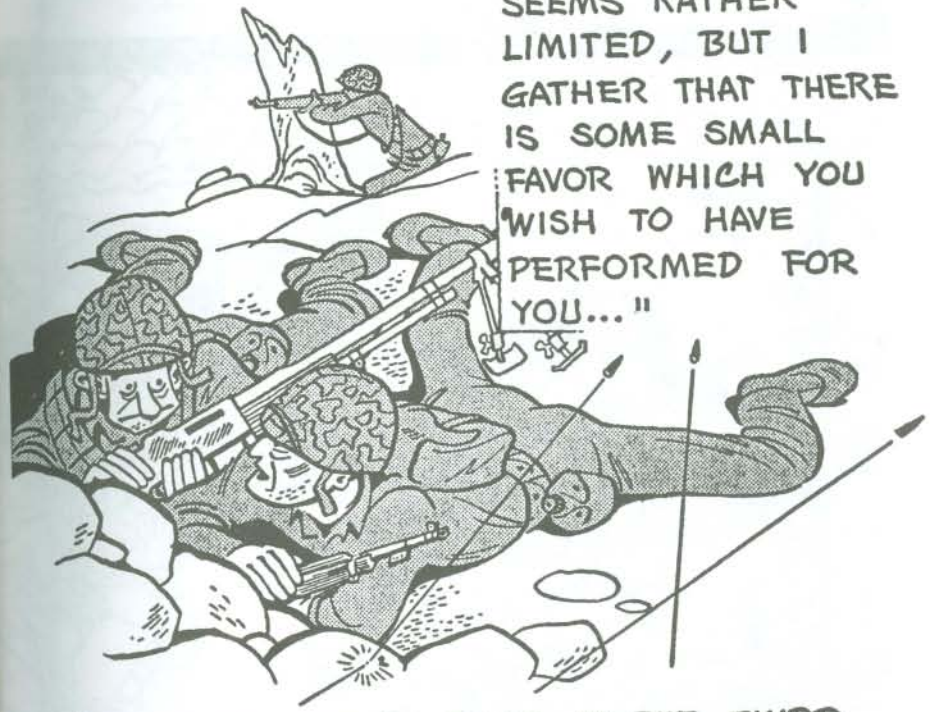
KIMPO AIRFIELD ANSWERED THE MARINES' PRAYER FOR LAND-BASED CLOSE AIR SUPPORT DURING THE COMING BATTLE FOR SEOUL /// MOPPING UP OPERATIONS WERE HARDLY COMPLETE WHEN ADVANCE ECHELONS OF ONE MARINE AIR GROUP OCCUPIED THE FIELD FOLLOWED SOON BY SEVERAL SQUADRONS...



"THE AIRFIELD MUST BE SECURED."

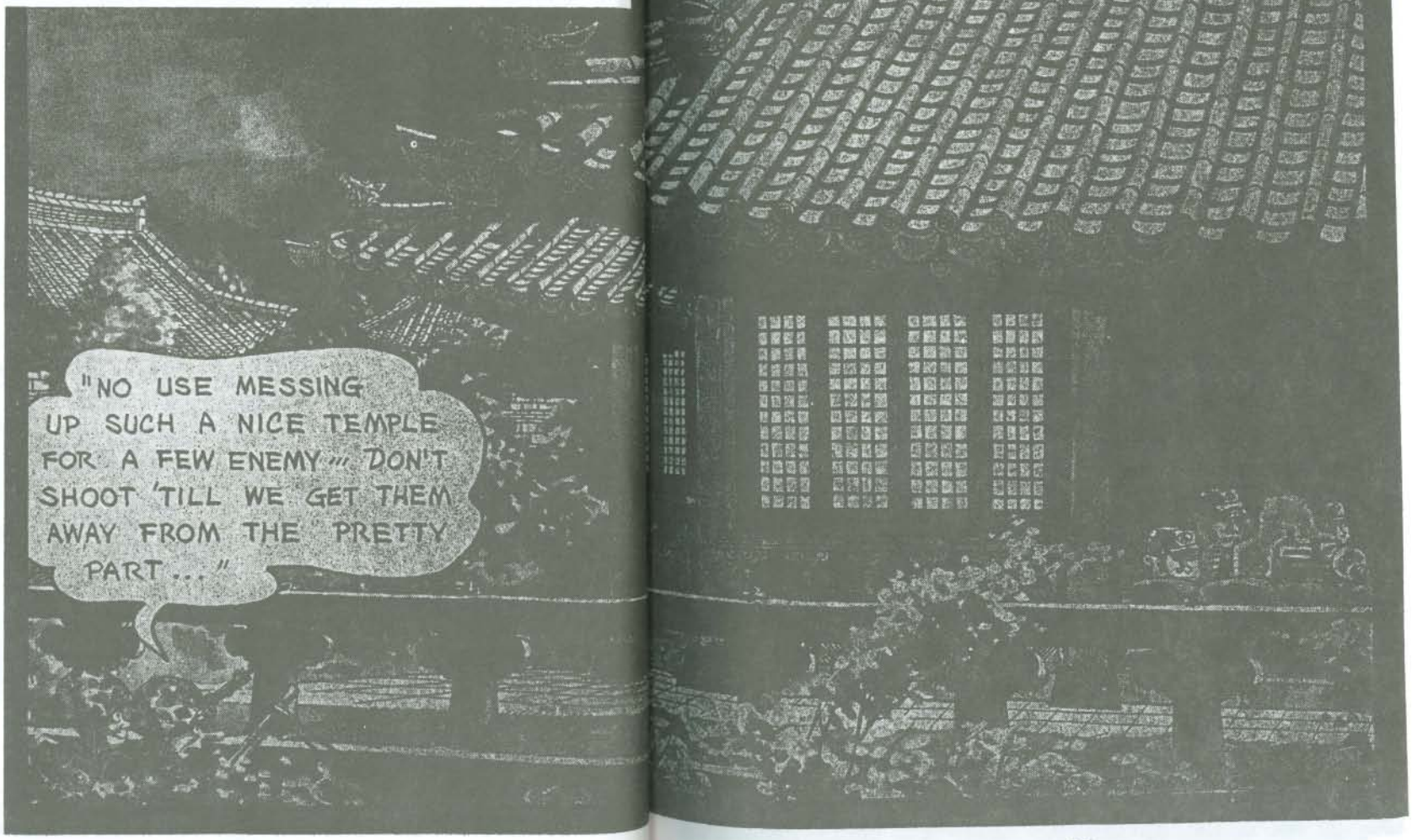
"YOU WOULD LOSE OUR CAN OPENER!"
"I TOLD YA' GUNNY, YOU WAS TOO OLD TO BE TRYING THAT KOREAN SQUAT..."



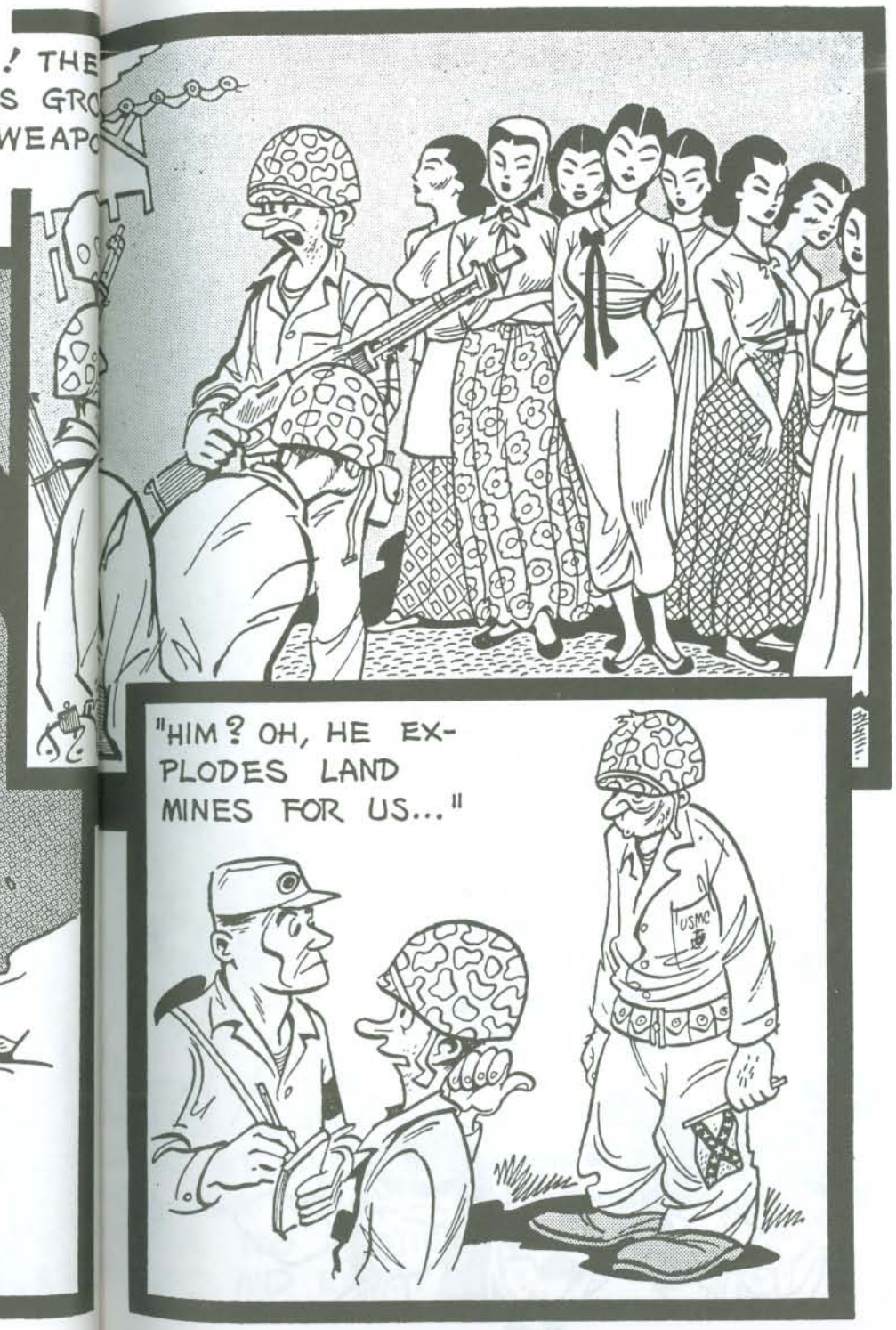

"BOY-SAN! IDDY-WA, BALI-BALI! ER...SIPSEO?"
"YOUR COMMAND OF THE KOREAN TONGUE SEEMS RATHER LIMITED, BUT I GATHER THAT THERE IS SOME SMALL FAVOR WHICH YOU WISH TO HAVE PERFORMED FOR YOU..."
"SINCE EVERYONE ELSE IN THE THIRD SQUAD HAS BEEN SHOT AND EVACUATED I'M MAKING YOU SQUAD LEADER."

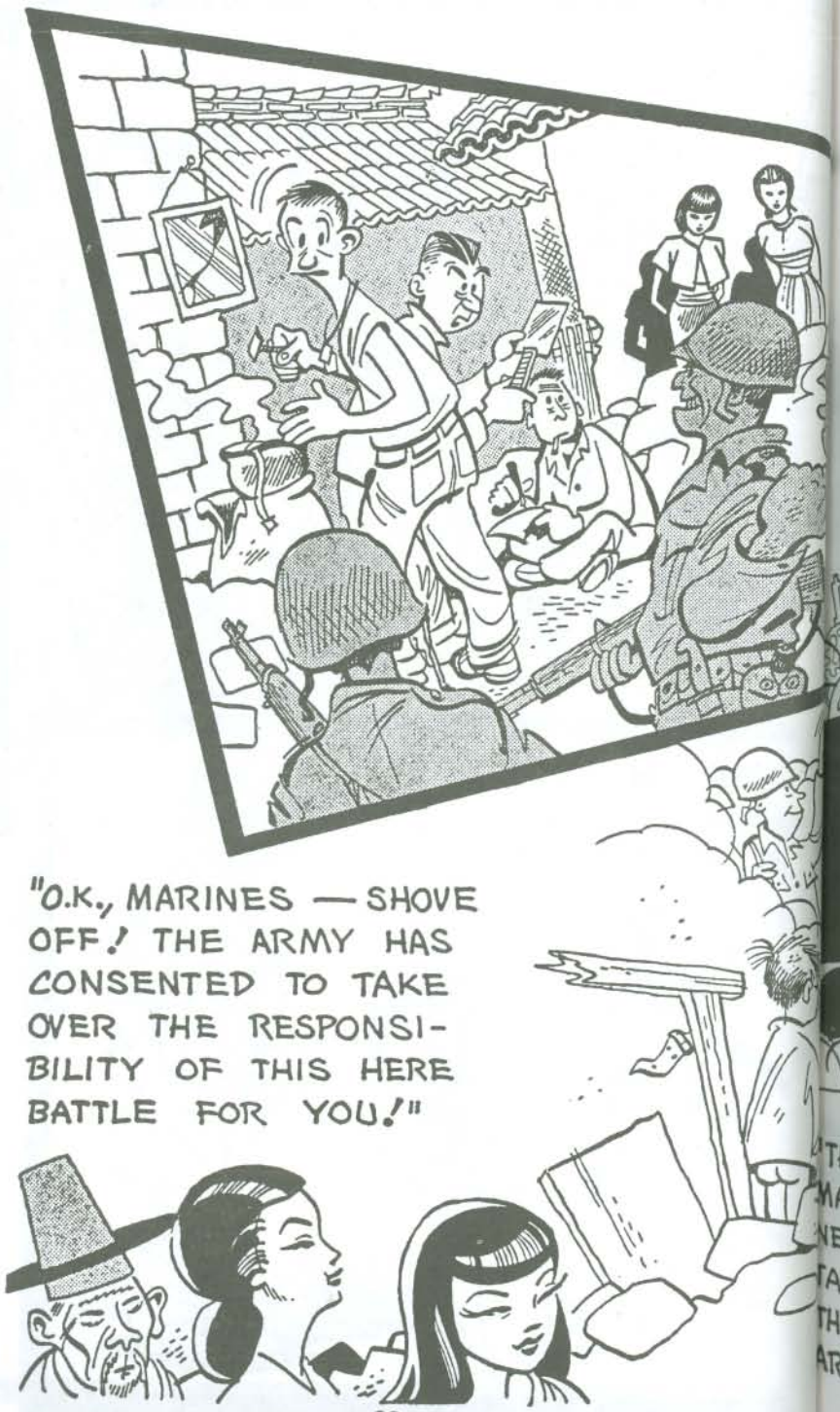
WITH THE CROSSING OF THE HAN RIVER DURING THE EARLY MORNING HOURS OF 20 SEPTEMBER, THE LAST OBSTACLE ON THE ROAD TO SEOUL HAD BEEN SWEPT ASIDE /// SLOWLY, METHODICALLY, AND WITH DEADLY EFFICIENCY, THE MARINES PUSHED THEIR WAY THROUGH THE CITY'S LABYRINTH OF MINED AND BARRICADED STREETS...

"THE GUY WITH THE FLAME-THROWER ? HE WAS HERE A FEW MINUTES AGO..."

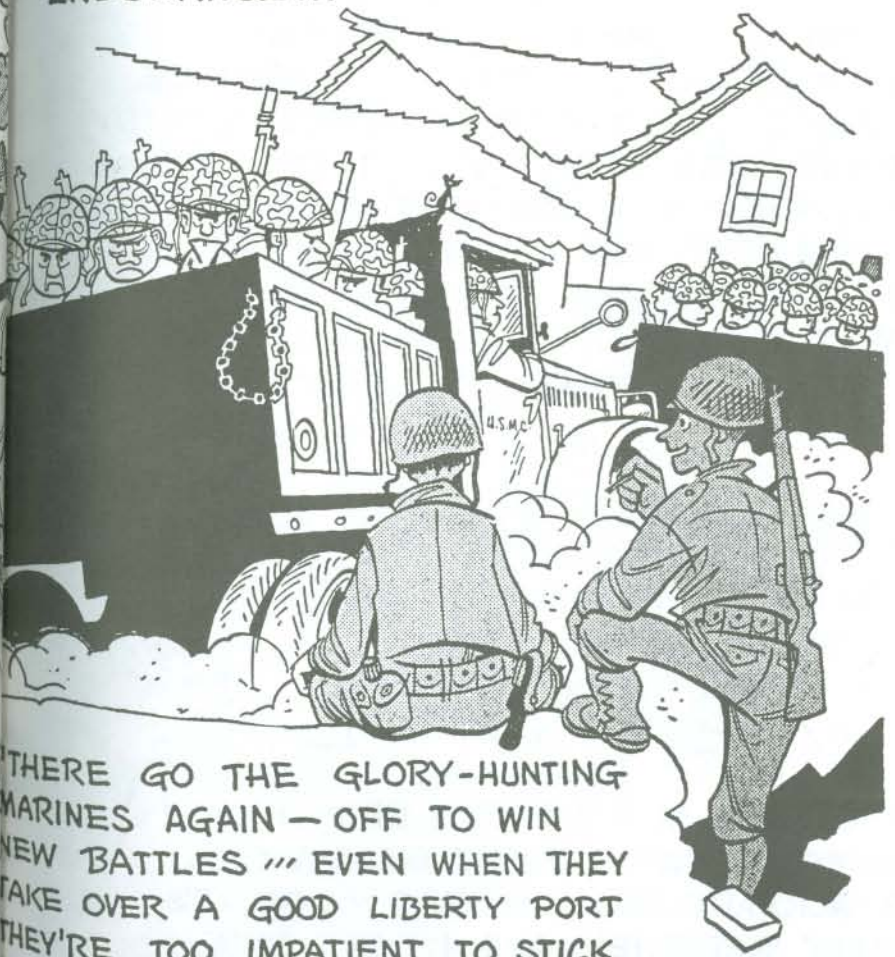

"NO USE MESSING UP SUCH A NICE TEMPLE FOR A FEW ENEMY... DON'T SHOOT 'TILL WE GET THEM AWAY FROM THE PRETTY PART..."

"AWRIGHT, YOU GUYS STAND BACK! THE CAPTAIN SAYS **HE'LL** SEARCH THIS GRO OF CIVILIANS FOR CONCEALED WEAPO HISSELF..."

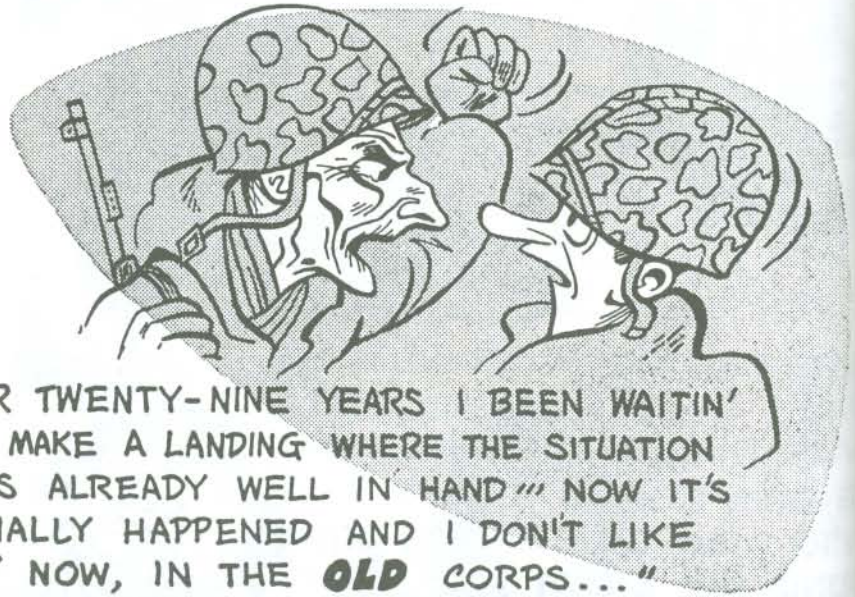


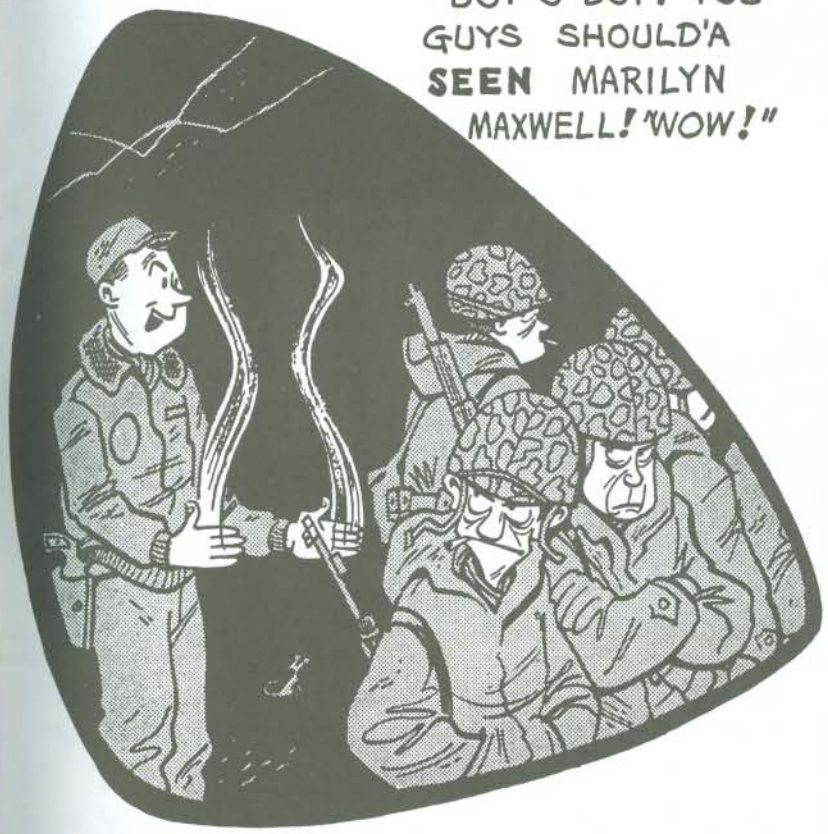


BY 10 OCTOBER, WITH THE BATTLE FOR SEOUL AND ADJACENT REAL ESTATE COMPLETED, MARINES OF THE FIRST DIVISION FOUND THEMSELVES ONCE AGAIN BOARDING TROOPSHIPS IN PREPARATION FOR A NEW ADVENTURE WHICH WAS SOON TO MAKE ITS PLACE IN HISTORY WITH THE GREATEST OF MARINE EPICS OF COURAGE AND SUPERHUMAN ENDURANCE...

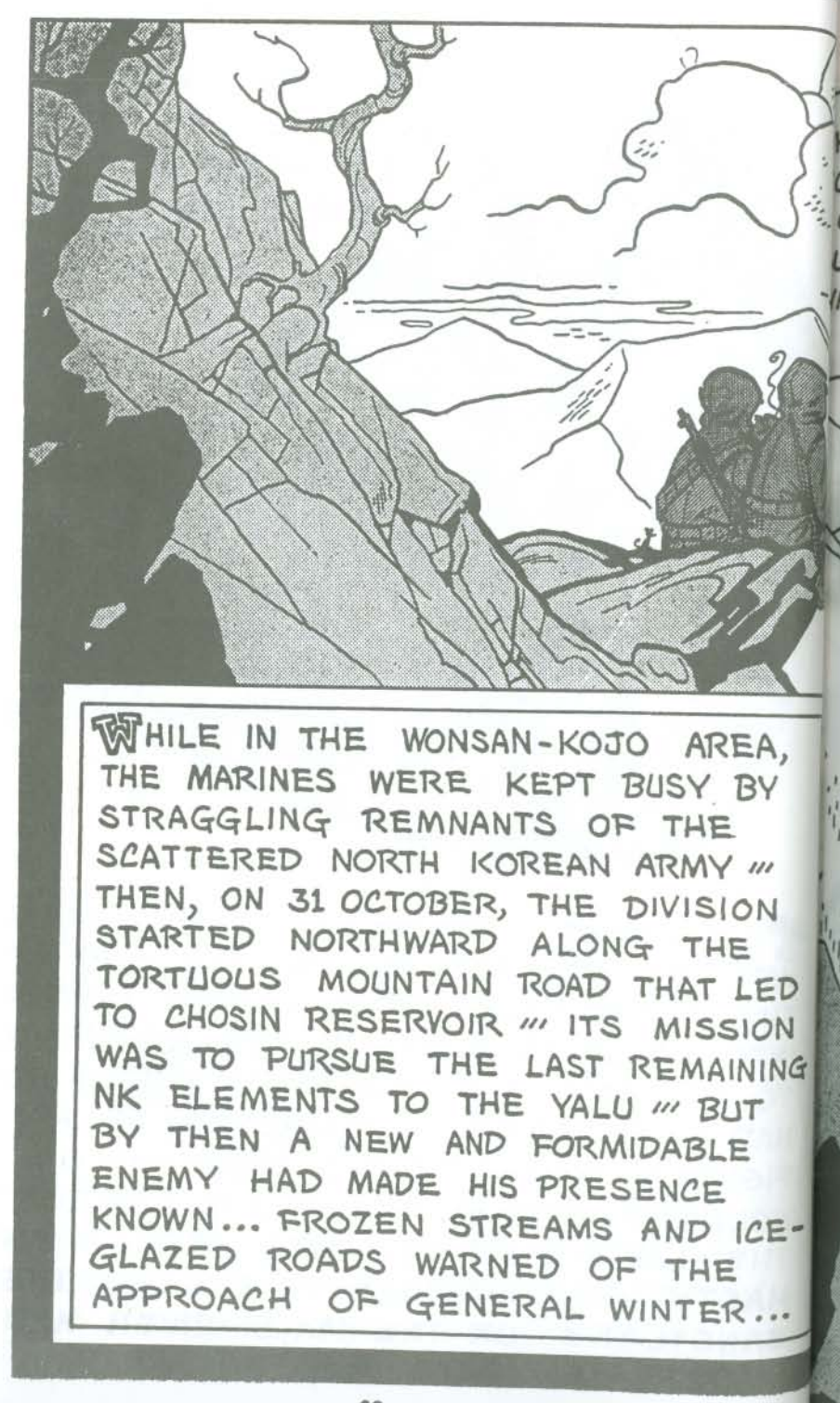


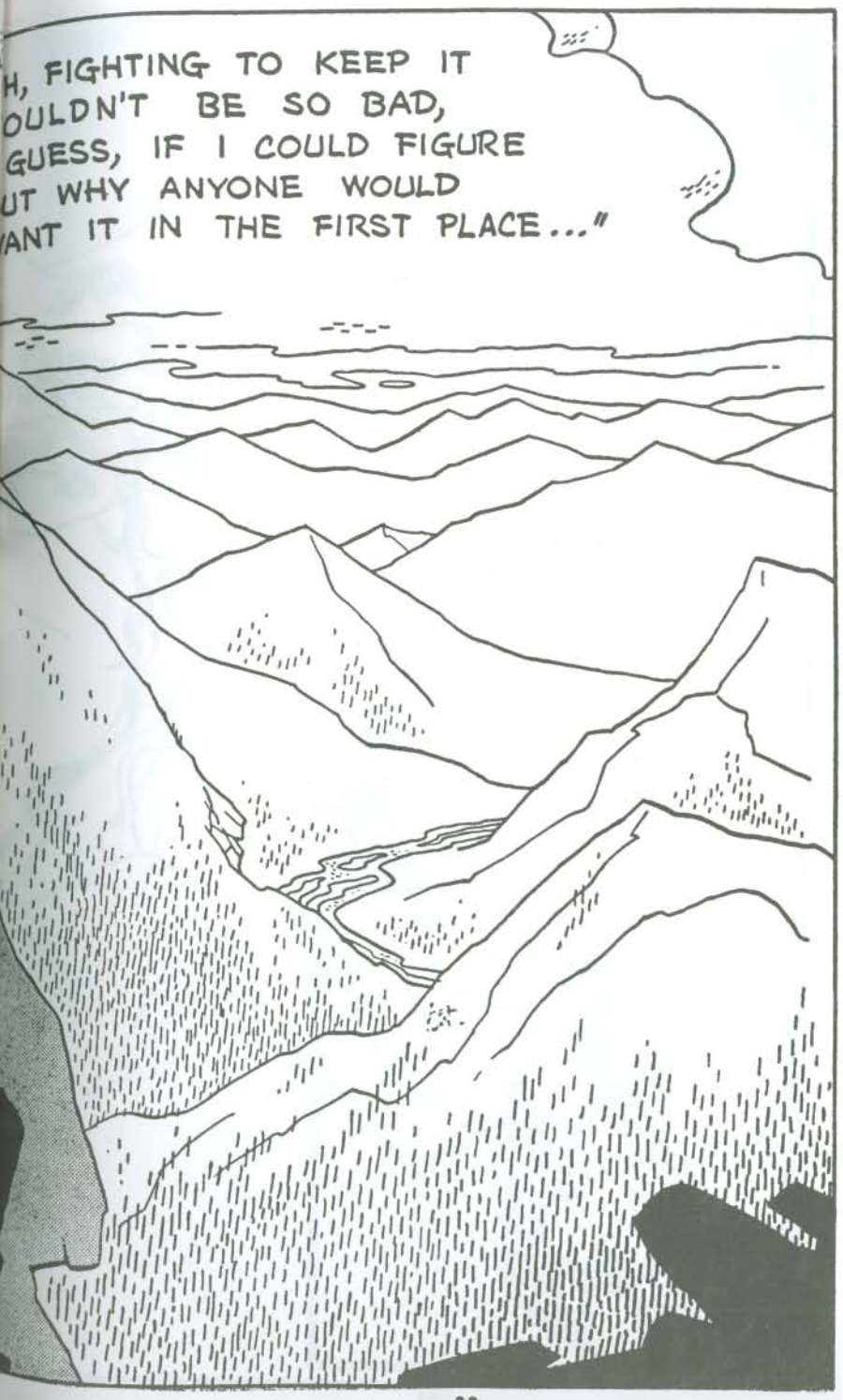
FROM 25 TO 27 OCTOBER, TWO WEEKS AFTER ITS DEPARTURE FROM INCHON, THE FIRST MARINE DIVISION LANDED ON THE BEACHES OF WONSAN, LEADING SEAPORT OF NORTH-EAST KOREA ··· BUT THIS TIME THE LEATHERNECKS WADED ASHORE WITH THEIR RIFLES ON "SAFE", FOR INSTEAD OF HOSTILE NORTH KOREANS, THEY WERE GREETED BY ROK TROOPS WHICH HAD MOVED UP THE EAST COAST TO OCCUPY THE TOWN WITHOUT A STRUGGLE ··· SO TAME WAS THE LANDING THAT ADVANCE ELEMENTS OF THE WING WERE ALREADY SWAPPING SEA STORIES IN THEIR WARMING TENTS WHEN THE DIVISION ARRIVED ··· BUT THE DEEPEST CUT OF ALL WAS THAT BOB HOPE AND MARILYN MAXWELL HAD BEAT THEM THERE WITH A USO TROUPE, AND THE MARINES MISSED THE SHOW!

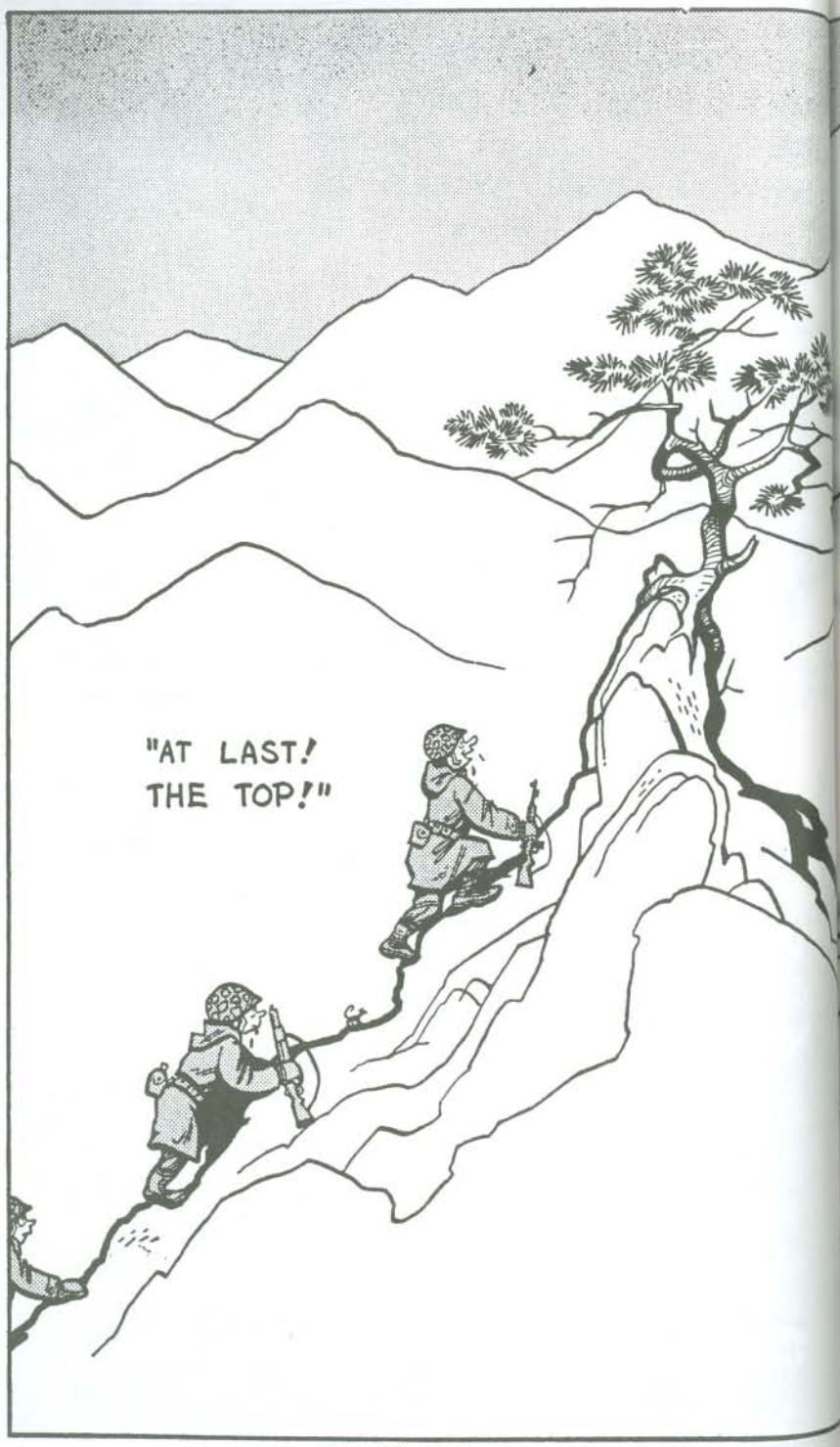


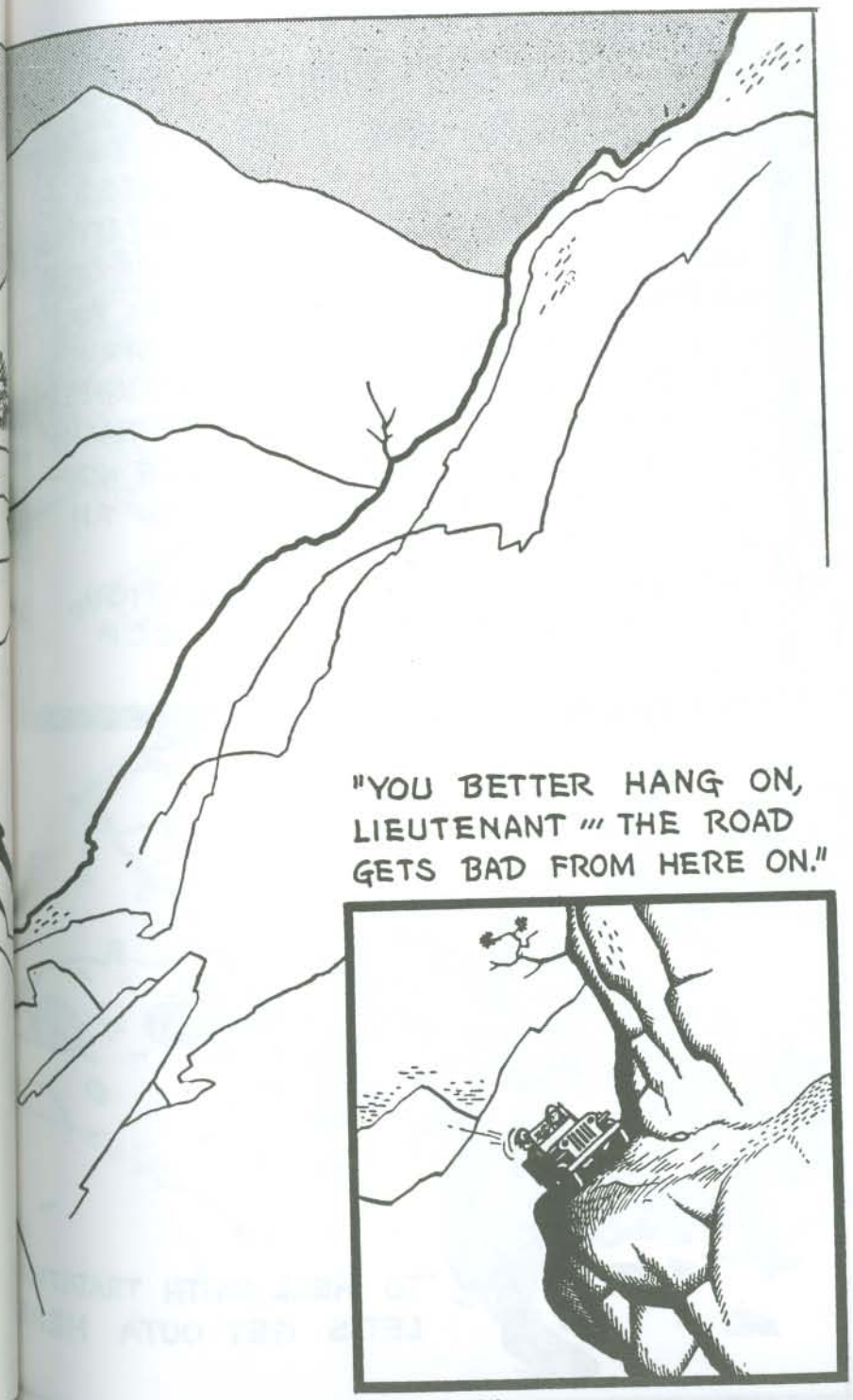


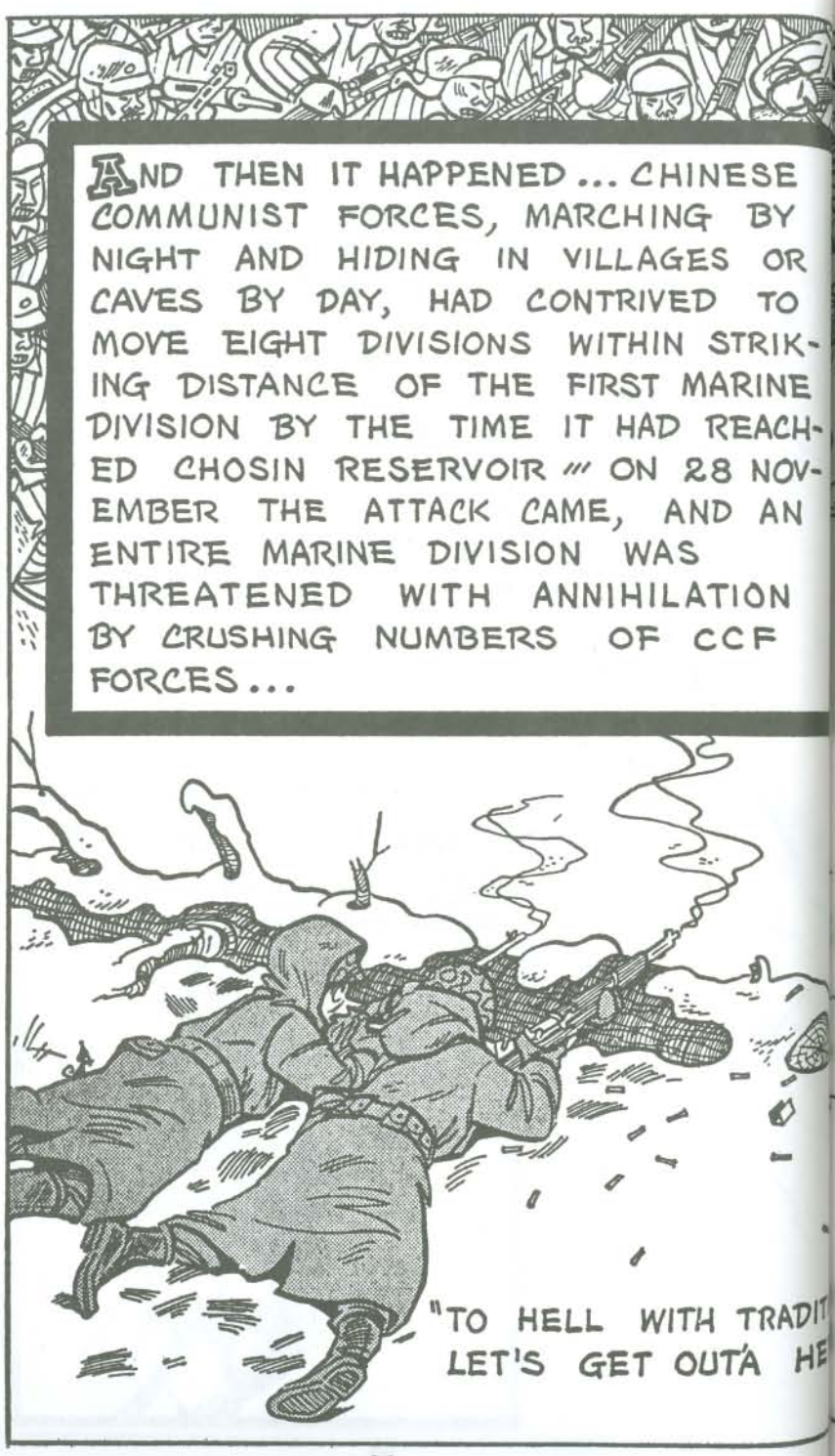
THE ASSAULT LANDING AT WONSAN, WHICH HAD BEEN PLANNED BEFORE THE END OF THE INCHON-SEOUL OPERATION, HAD DEVELOPED INTO SIMPLY AN ADMINISTRATIVE LANDING DUE TO THE FACT THAT THE NORTH KOREAN ARMY HAD BEEN VIRTUALLY DESTROYED AS A FIGHTING FORCE BY THE CRUSHING UN COUNTER-OFFENSIVE ··· AT THE TIME OF THE LANDING ITS REMNANTS WERE MAKING HASTY NORTH-BOUND TRACKS TO THE SANCTUARY OF THE YALU RIVER AND MANCHURIA...

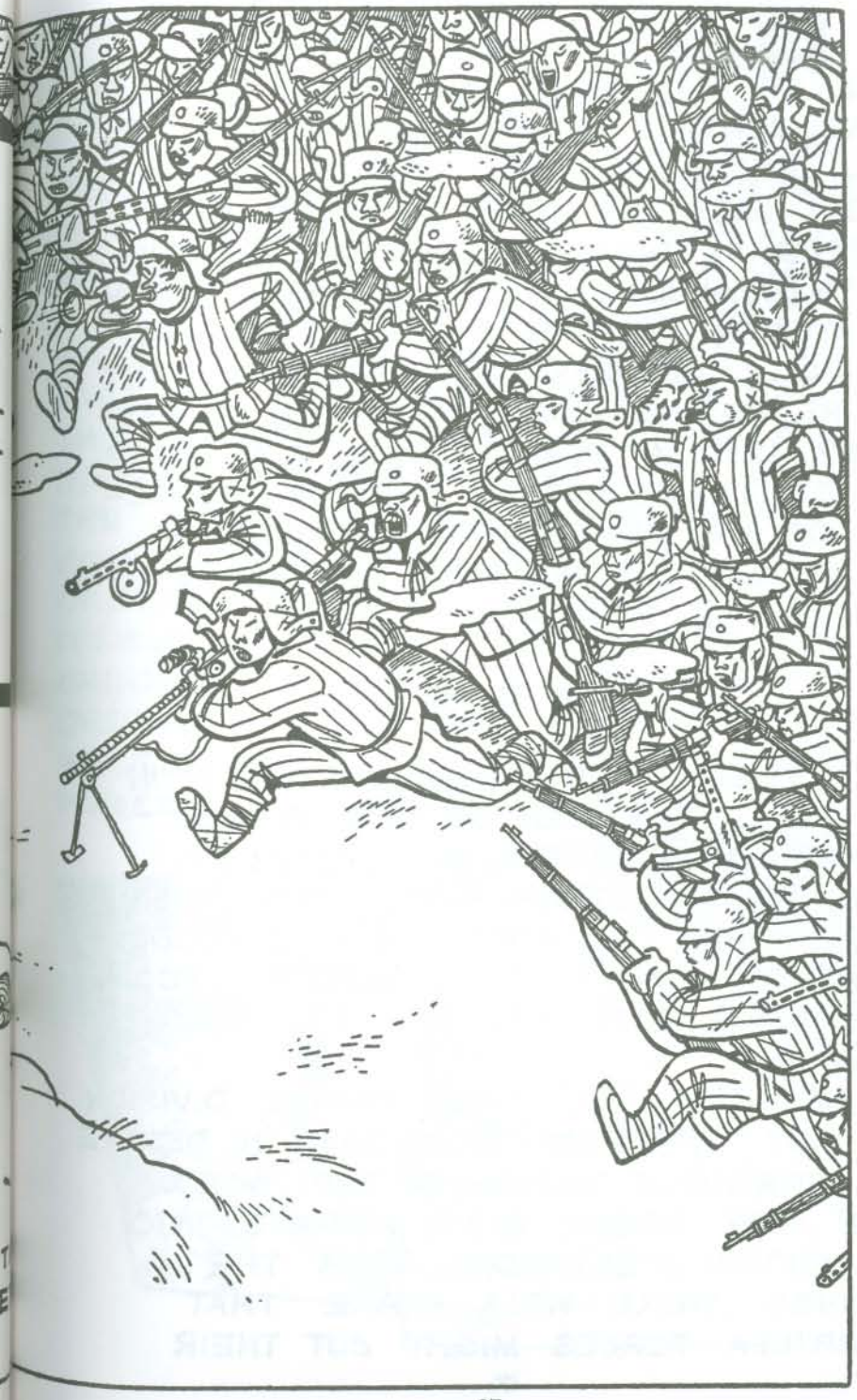

WHILE IN THE WONSAN-KOJO AREA, THE MARINES WERE KEPT BUSY BY STRAGGLING REMNANTS OF THE SCATTERED NORTH KOREAN ARMY /// THEN, ON 31 OCTOBER, THE DIVISION STARTED NORTHWARD ALONG THE TORTUOUS MOUNTAIN ROAD THAT LED TO CHOSIN RESERVOIR /// ITS MISSION WAS TO PURSUE THE LAST REMAINING NK ELEMENTS TO THE YALU /// BUT BY THEN A NEW AND FORMIDABLE ENEMY HAD MADE HIS PRESENCE KNOWN... FROZEN STREAMS AND ICE-GLAZED ROADS WARNED OF THE APPROACH OF GENERAL WINTER...


H, FIGHTING TO KEEP IT
OULDN'T BE SO BAD,
GUESS, IF I COULD FIGURE
UT WHY ANYONE WOULD
ANT IT IN THE FIRST PLACE..."


"AT LAST!
THE TOP!"


"YOU BETTER HANG ON,
LIEUTENANT ... THE ROAD
GETS BAD FROM HERE ON."


AND THEN IT HAPPENED... CHINESE COMMUNIST FORCES, MARCHING BY NIGHT AND HIDING IN VILLAGES OR CAVES BY DAY, HAD CONTRIVED TO MOVE EIGHT DIVISIONS WITHIN STRIKING DISTANCE OF THE FIRST MARINE DIVISION BY THE TIME IT HAD REACHED CHOSIN RESERVOIR /// ON 28 NOVEMBER THE ATTACK CAME, AND AN ENTIRE MARINE DIVISION WAS THREATENED WITH ANNIHILATION BY CRUSHING NUMBERS OF CCF FORCES...
"TO HELL WITH TRADIT
LET'S GET OUTA HE



A FEW MEMBERS OF THE PRESS, SOME OF WHOM HAVE MANAGED TO AVOID CLOSE CONTACT WITH MARINES AND ARE STILL ENJOYING GOOD HEALTH, ERRONEOUSLY USED THE WORDS **RETREAT** AND **TRAPPED** IN THEIR DESCRIPTIONS OF THE CHOSIN BREAKOUT ''' A FEW EXCERPTS FROM A STATEMENT TO THE PRESS BY GENERAL LEMUEL C. SHEPHERD, JR., NOW COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS, RELEASED 16 DECEMBER, 1950 AT PEARL HARBOR, T.H., AFTER THE GENERAL'S RETURN FROM AN INSPECTION OF AIR AND GROUND ELEMENTS OF THE DIVISION AT HUNGNAM, MAY SERVE TO CLARIFY THIS POINT...

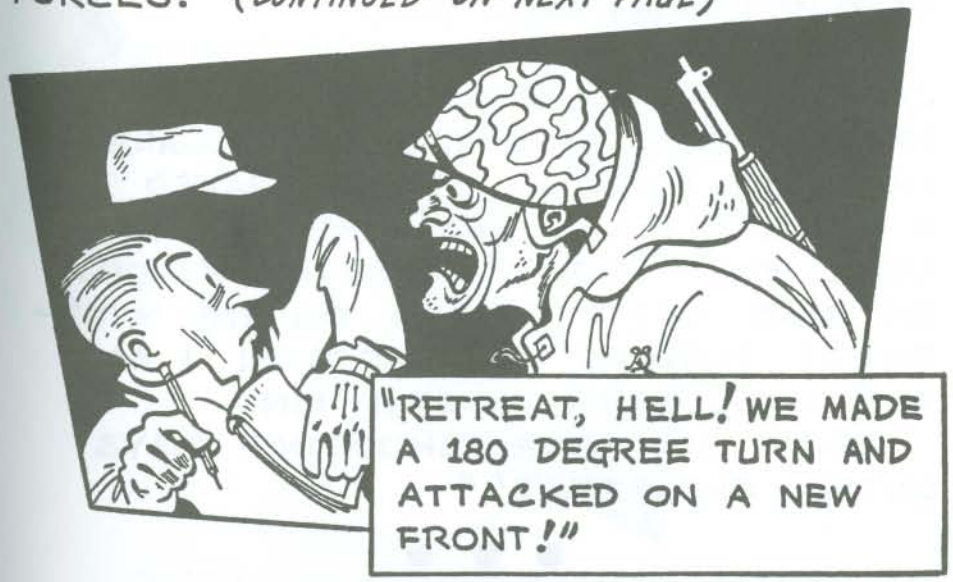
• • •

"...DESPITE FREQUENT ACCOUNTS IN THE PRESS, **THE MEN OF THE FIRST MARINE DIVISION DID NOT RETREAT.** THEY OBEYED ORDERS — SENSIBLE ORDERS FROM HIGHER AUTHORITY — TO CONDUCT AN ORDERLY MOVE FROM EXPOSED POSITIONS TO A MORE SECURE AREA NEAR HAMHUNG.

"SECONDLY, THE FIRST MARINE DIVISION WAS NOT '**TRAPPED**' AT HAGARU-RI, DESPITE THE FREQUENT MISUSE OF THAT WORD. WHEN THEY BEGAN THEIR ADVANCE INTO THE CHOSIN RESERVOIR AREA THE MARINES WERE WELL AWARE THAT GUERRILLA FORCES MIGHT CUT THEIR

SUPPLY LINES. THEY PREPARED FOR THIS EVENTUALITY... (AND) WHEN THE CRISIS AROSE IT WAS READILY MET.

"WHEN... OUR FORCES IN KOREA FOUND THEMSELVES IN A NEW AND DIFFERENT WAR, ENGAGED WITH A NUMERICALLY SUPERIOR AND FRESH ENEMY, A LOGICAL PLAN ON THE PART OF THE X CORPS, OF WHICH THE FIRST MARINE DIVISION IS A PART, WAS TO CONCENTRATE ITS FORCES. THIS INVOLVED MOVING THE FIRST MARINE DIVISION SOUTHWARD OVER 75 MILES OF THE MOST TORTUOUS MOUNTAIN ROADS CONCEIVABLE. UPON RECEIVING ITS ORDERS TO MOVE, THE DIVISION FOUND ITSELF HEAVILY ENGAGED WITH SIX CHINESE COMMUNIST DIVISIONS AND, IN ORDER TO CARRY OUT ITS MISSION, IT WAS NECESSARY TO DEFEAT THOSE COMMUNIST FORCES. *(CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)*



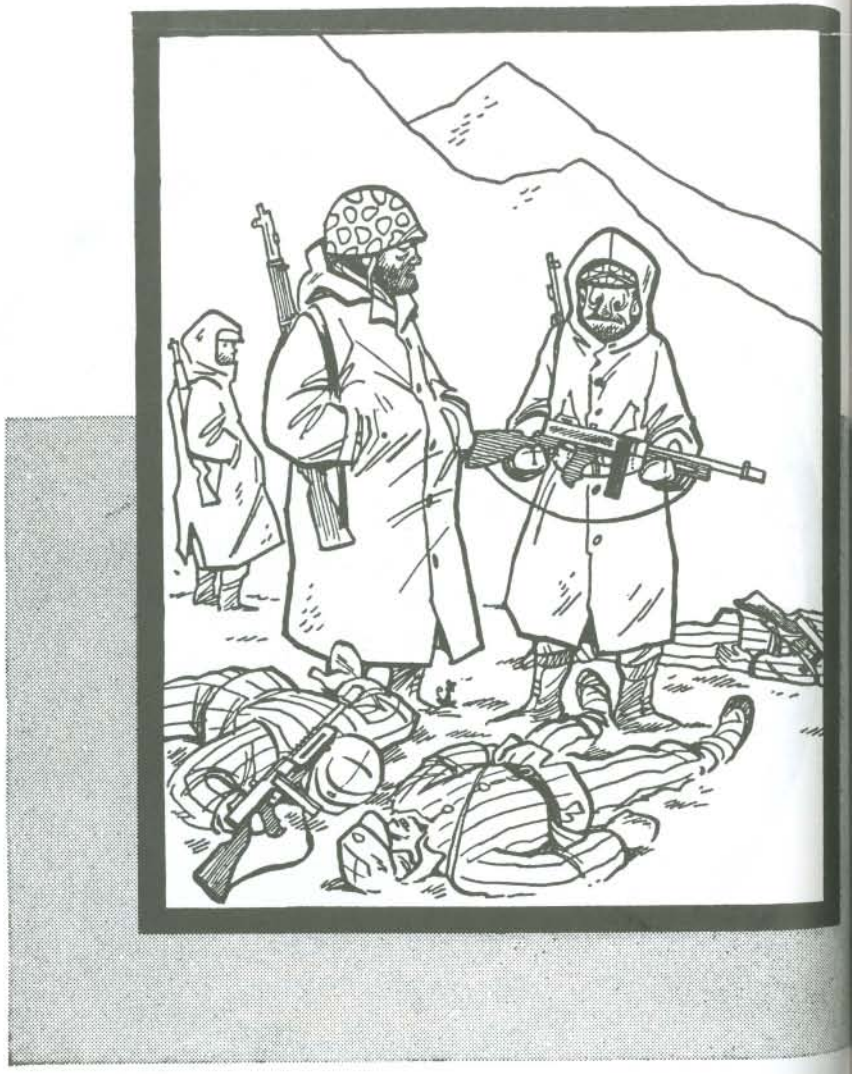
WHEREUPON THE FIRST MARINE DIVISION TURNED IN ITS TRACES AND LAUNCHED A SERIES OF DEADLY ATTACKS WHICH RESULTED IN THE COMPLETE ROUT OF ALL SIX OF THE CHINESE DIVISIONS OPPOSING IT. FIGHTING IN ICE, SNOW AND SUB-ZERO WEATHER, THE DIVISION... DROVE ITS WAY THROUGH TO ITS ASSIGNED OBJECTIVE. THE OPPOSING CHINESE FORCES WERE SO PUNISHED BY THE MARINES AS TO CONSTITUTE NO FURTHER THREAT TO OUR CAUSE..... BY NO STRETCH OF THE IMAGINATION CAN THIS BE DESCRIBED AS RETREAT, SINCE A RETREAT PRESUPPOSES DEFEAT—AND THE ONLY DEFEAT INVOLVED IN THIS BATTLE WAS THE ONE SUFFERED BY THE CHINESE..... WHEN THE MARINES ARRIVED IN HAMHUNG... THEIR SPIRITS WERE HIGH AND THEY WERE PROUD OF THEIR ACCOMPLISHMENTS.

"THE MEN FACED THEIR LOT WITH CHEERFUL UNDERSTANDING AND DEMONSTRATED THE SAME STEADFAST CHARACTER THAT HAS COME TO BE ASSOCIATED WITH MARINES EVERYWHERE. THEY EVEN KEPT THEIR SENSE OF HUMOR. ON ONE TANK PARKED ON THE WINDSWEPT PLATEAU NEAR KOTO-RI I SAW THE FOLLOWING INSCRIPTION:

'ONLY 14 MORE SHOOTING DAYS UNTIL CHRISTMAS'."

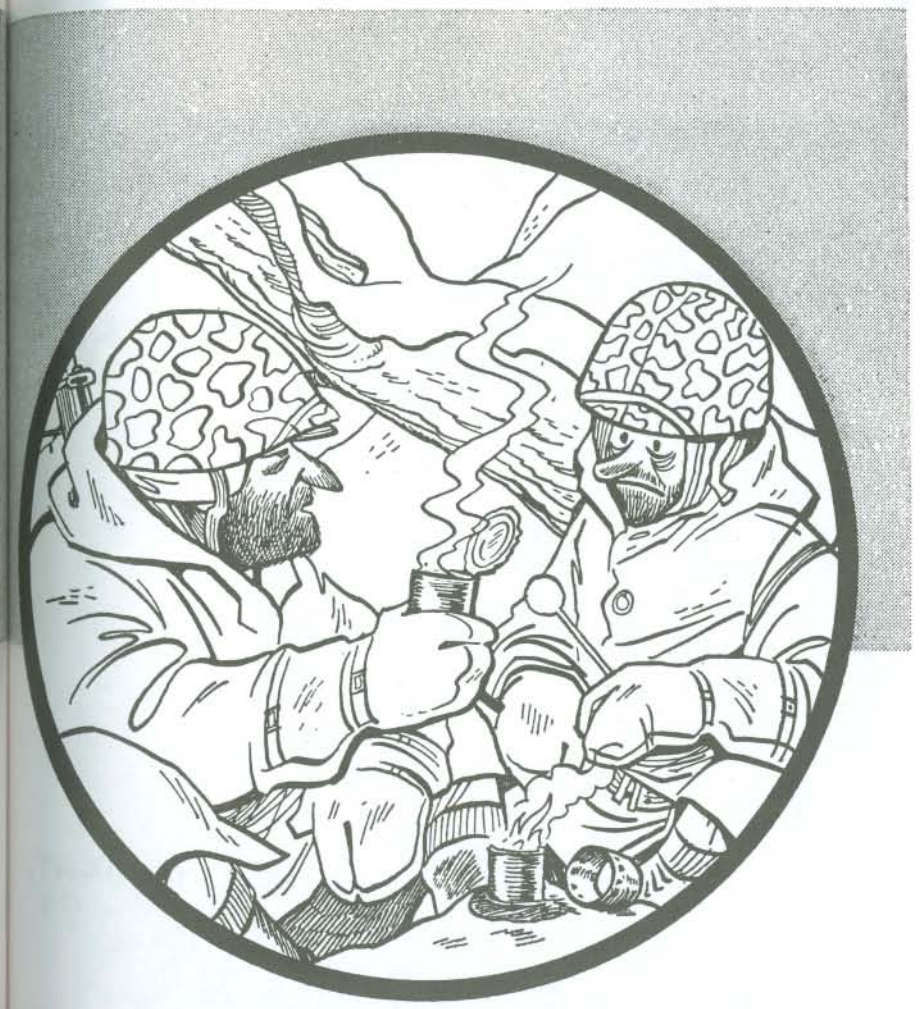
• • •

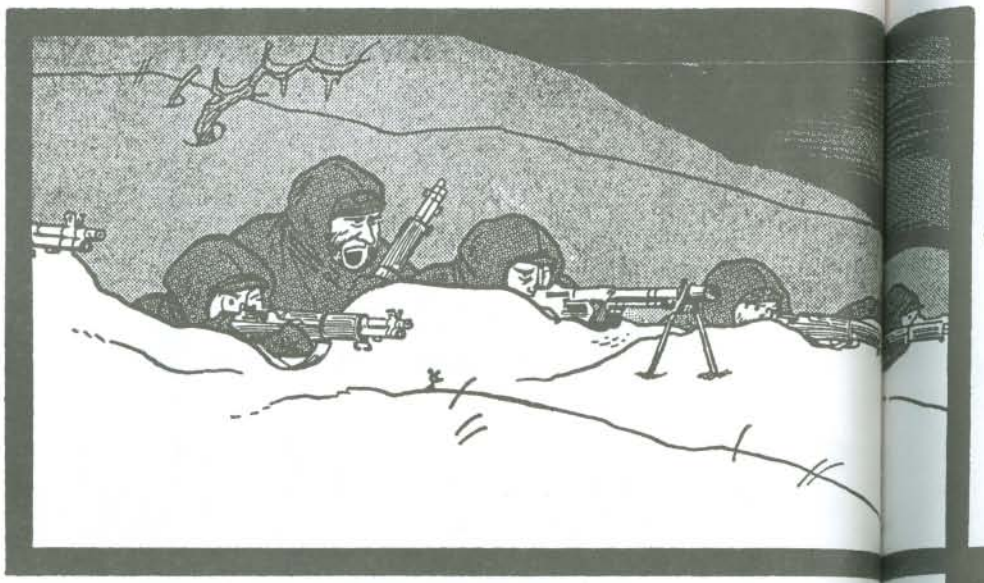
"HERE THEY COME!"



"LEND LEASE..."

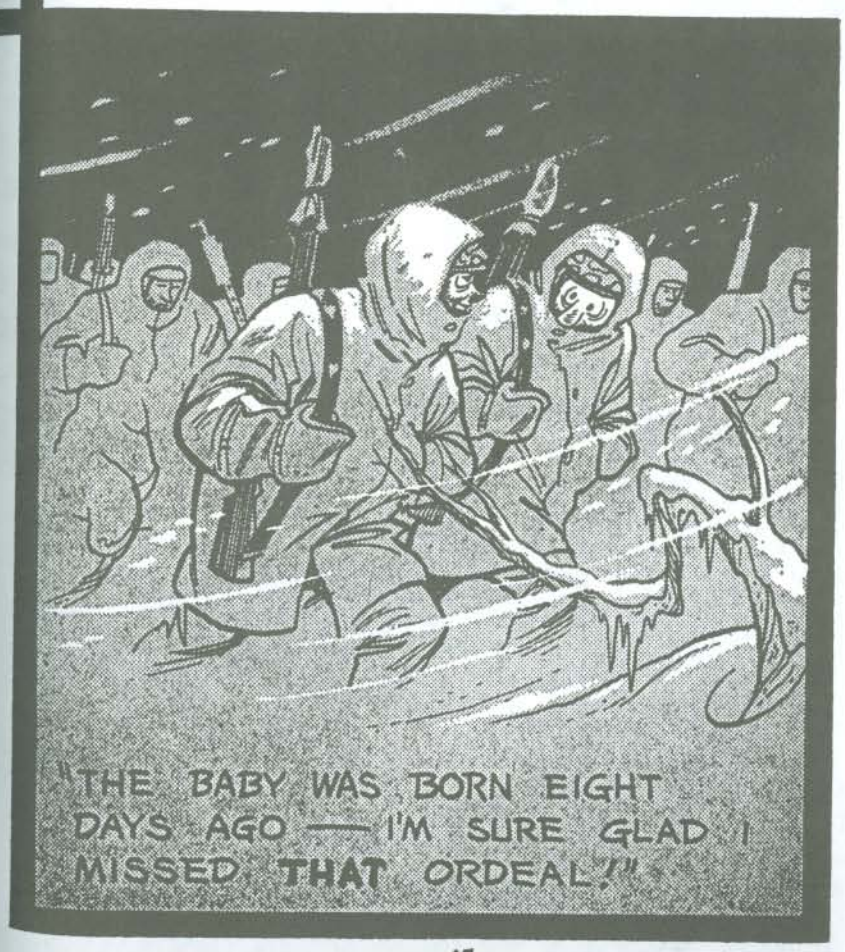
"THE BOTTOM'S BURNT AND THE TOP IS COLD — TRY TO GET A COUPLE BITES OUT OF THE MIDDLE BEFORE IT FREEZES..."



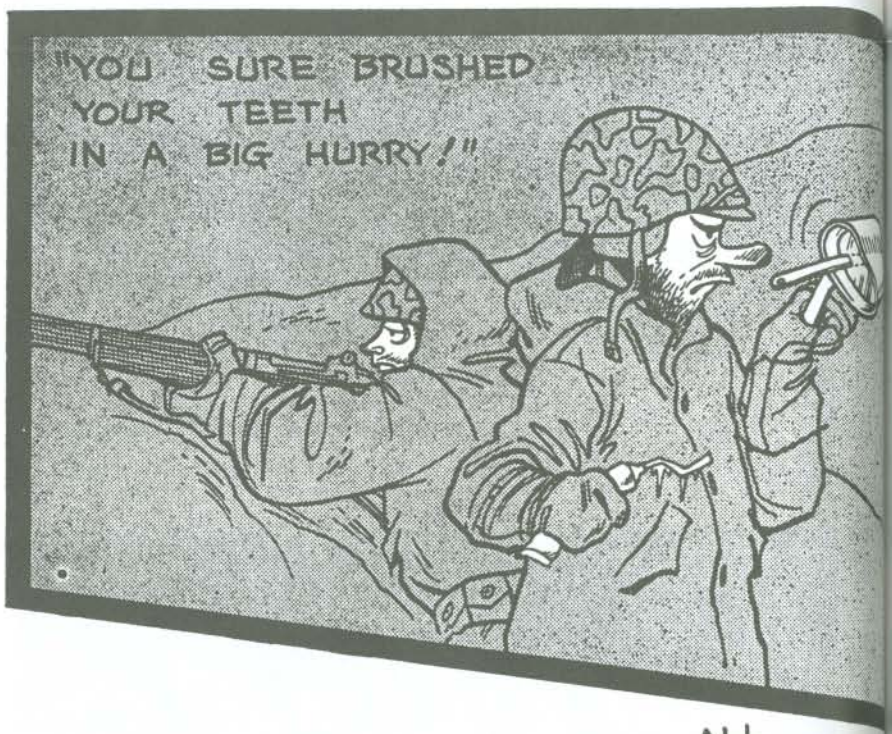


"DON'T FIRE, MEN, UNTIL YOU CAN SEE THE GOLD IN THEIR TEETH!"

"COLD TONIGHT, AIN'T IT?"

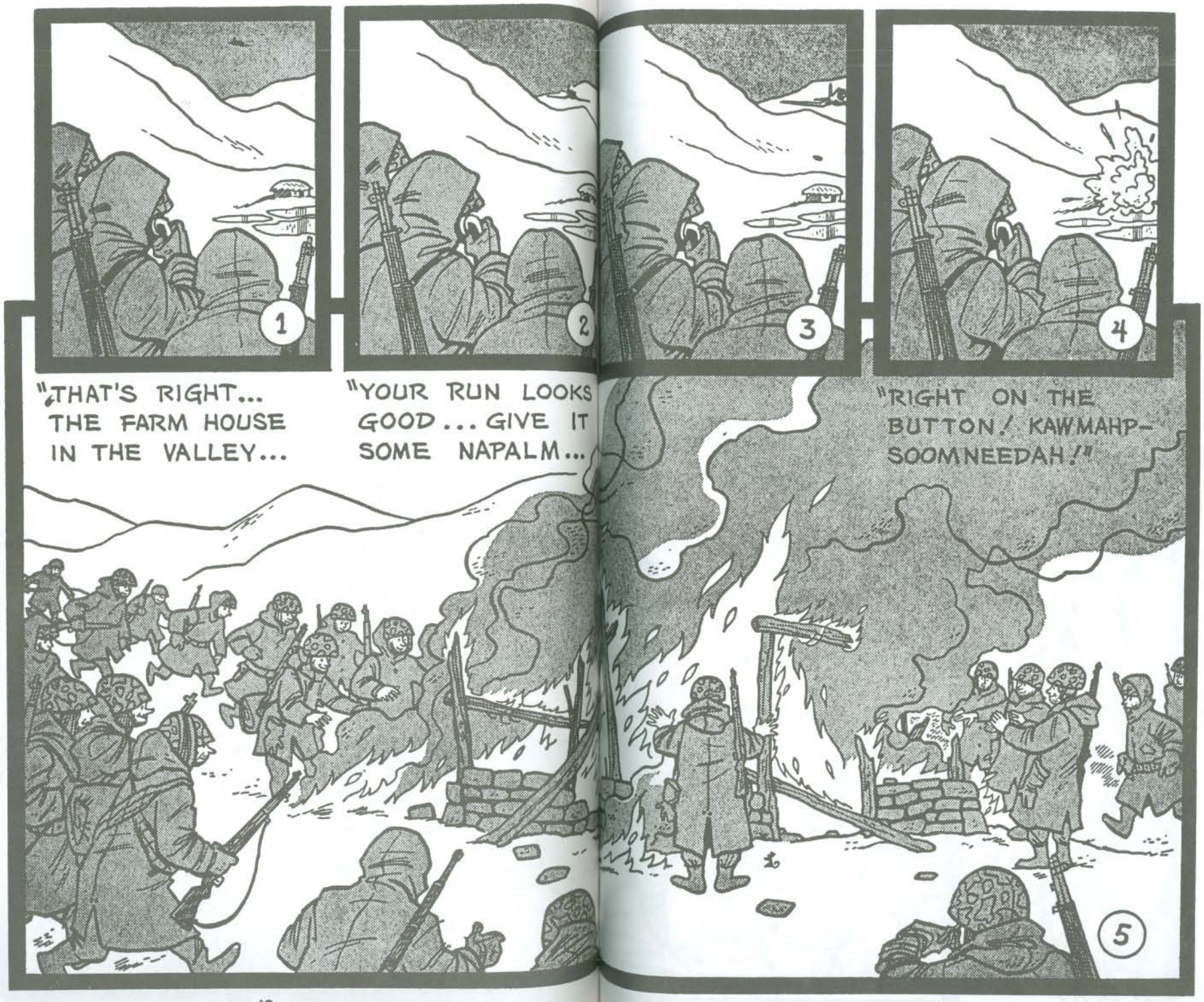


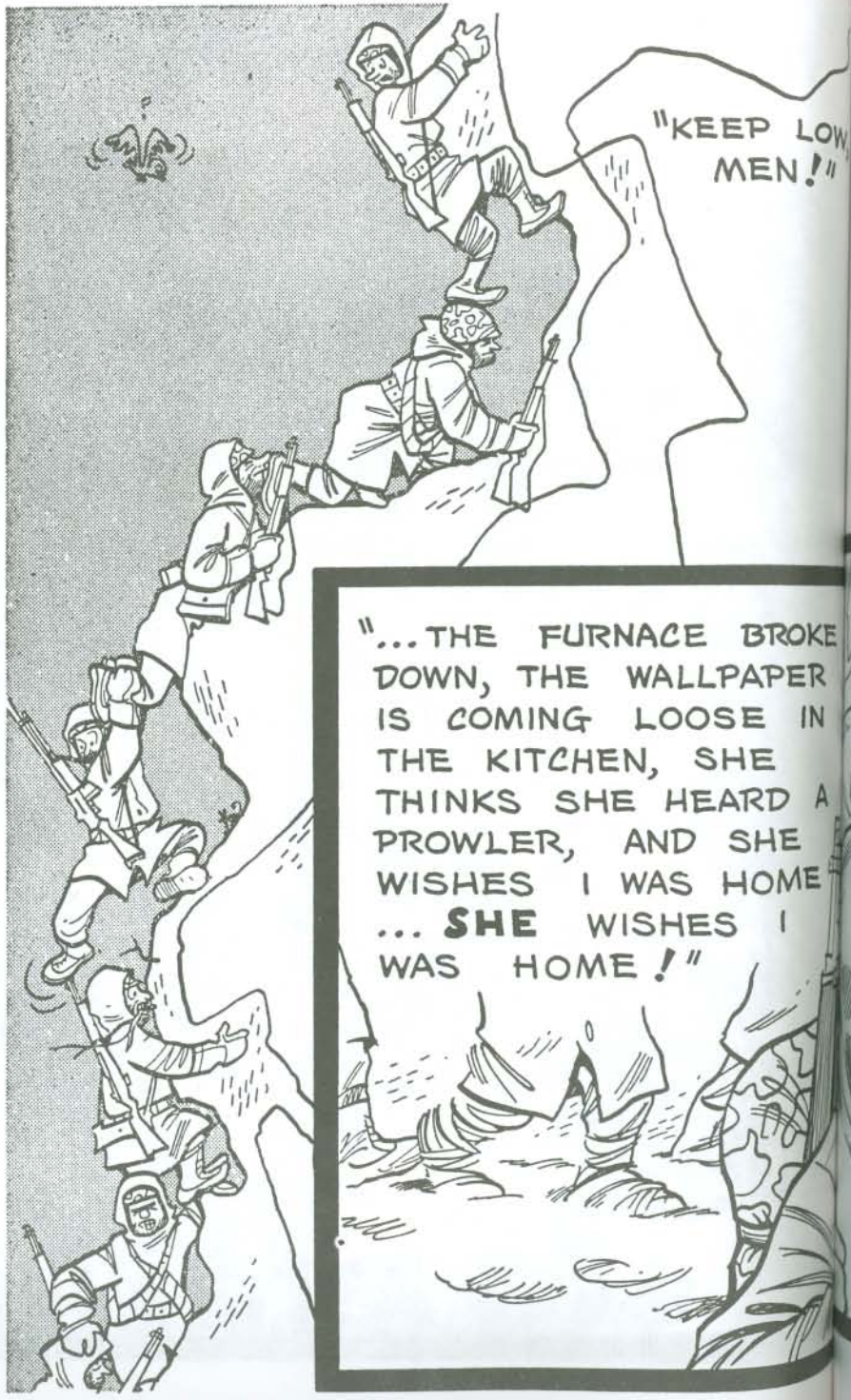
"THE BABY WAS BORN EIGHT DAYS AGO — I'M SURE GLAD I MISSED THAT ORDEAL!"

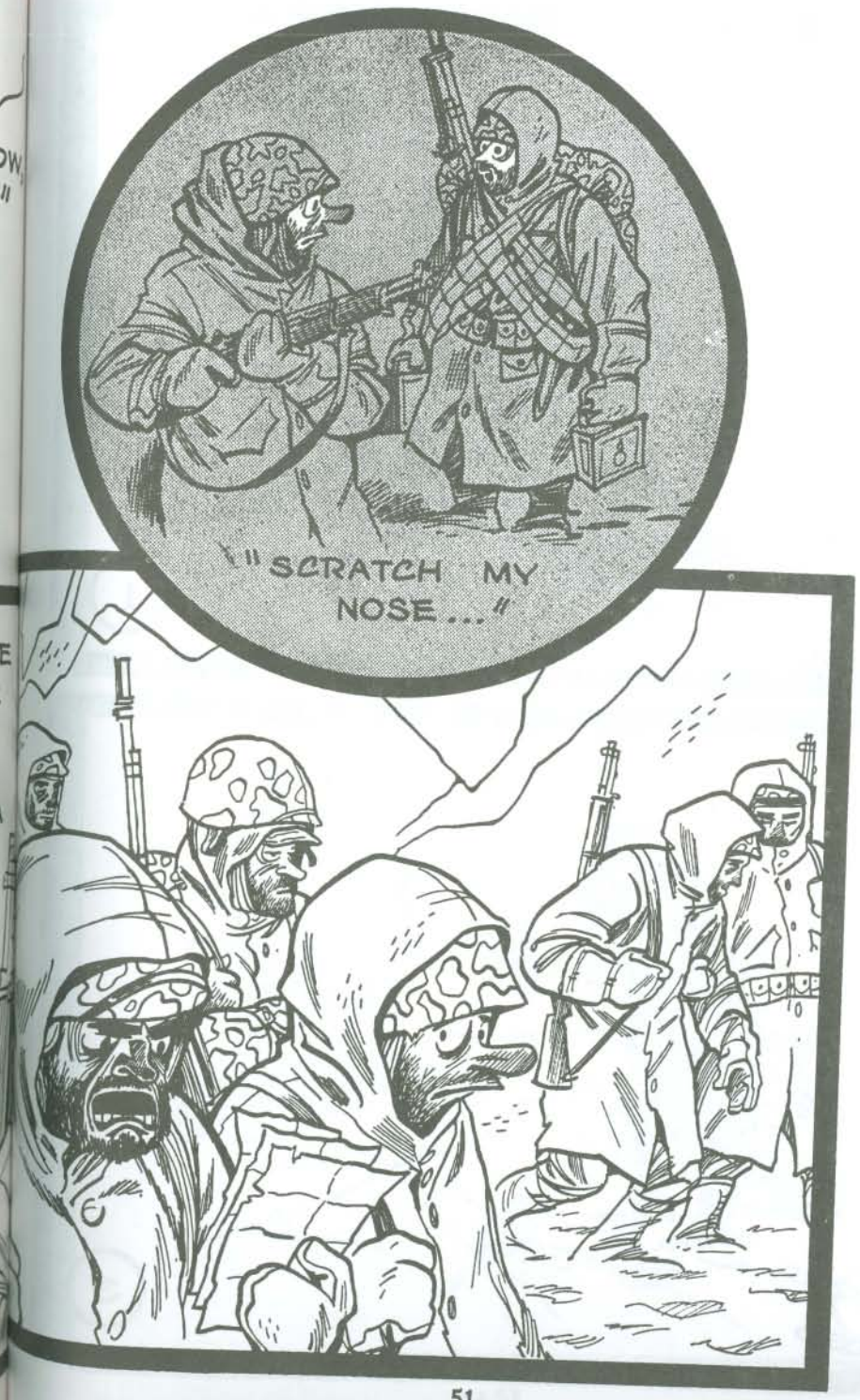

"YOU SURE BRUSHED YOUR TEETH IN A BIG HURRY!"

"ALL READY ON THE RIGHT... ALL READY ON THE LEFT... ALL READY ON THE FIRING LINE! WATCH YOUR TARGET.

"IT IS AMAZING THE WAY THESE AMERICAN MARINES HANG ONTO THEIR POSITIONS..."


1
"THAT'S RIGHT... THE FARM HOUSE IN THE VALLEY...
2
"YOUR RUN LOOKS GOOD... GIVE IT SOME NAPALM...
3
4
"RIGHT ON THE BUTTON! KAWMAHP-SOOMNEEDAH!"
5


"KEEP LOW, MEN!"
"...THE FURNACE BROKE DOWN, THE WALLPAPER IS COMING LOOSE IN THE KITCHEN, SHE THINKS SHE HEARD A PROWLER, AND SHE WISHES I WAS HOME ... SHE WISHES I WAS HOME!"


"SCRATCH MY NOSE..."

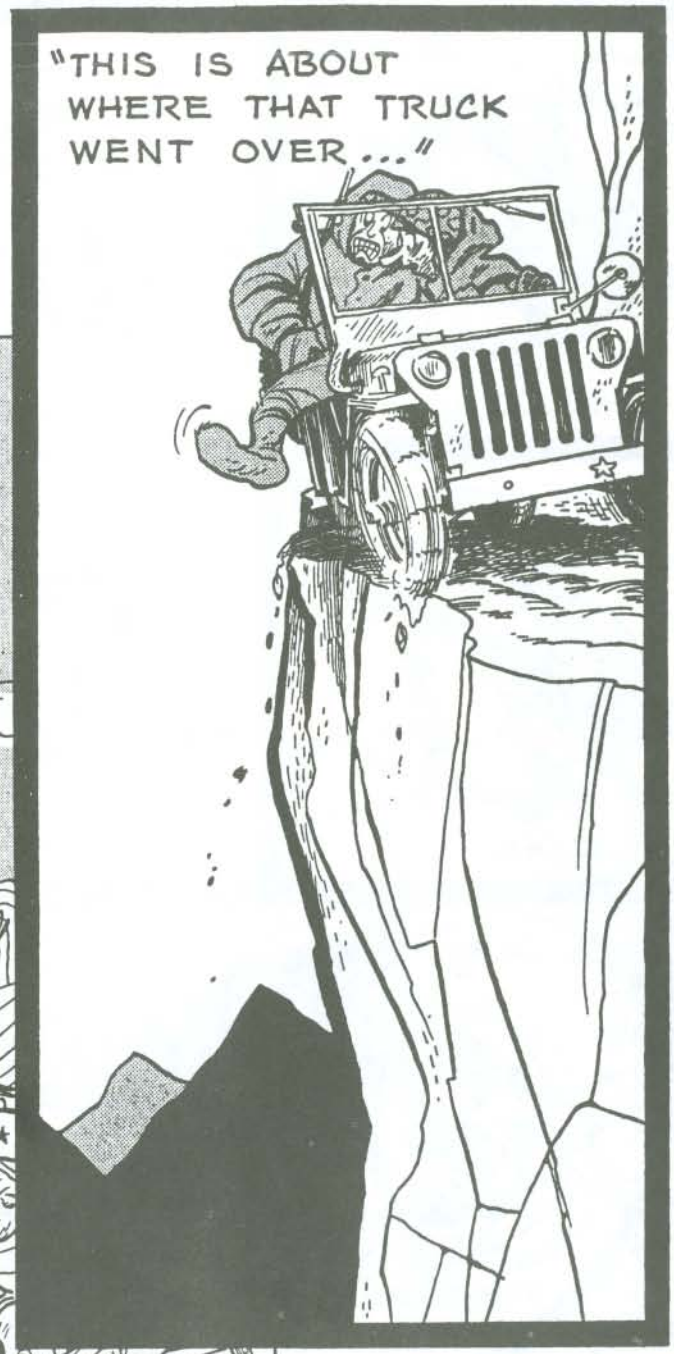
#eeee!!
1

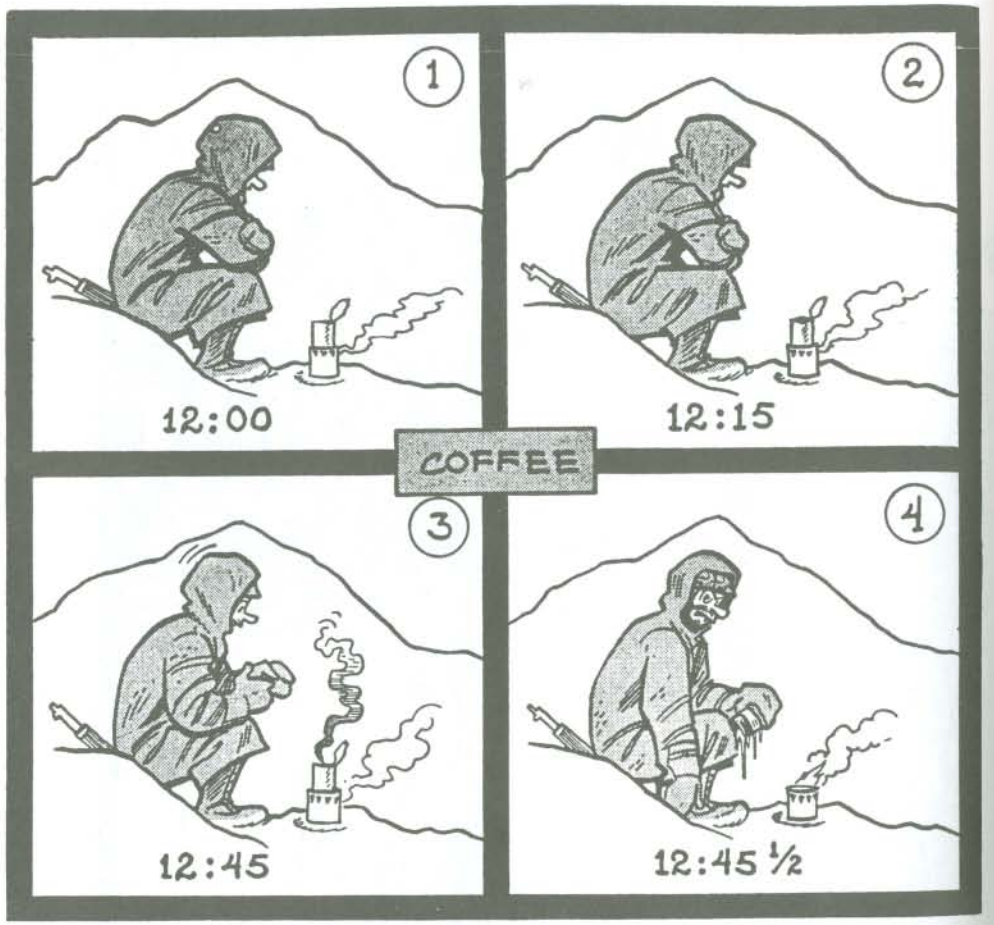
!
3

?
2

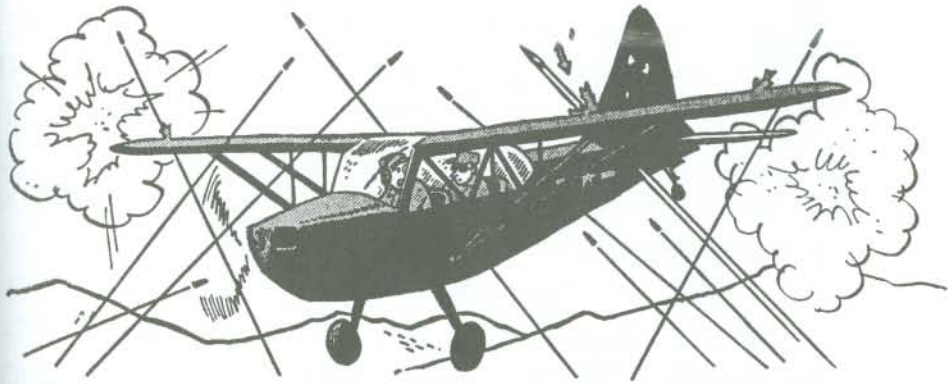
4

NIGHT WATCH
"WHO'S IN THERE?"
"JOHN WAYNE WOULD BE PROUD OF YOU!"


"THIS IS ABOUT WHERE THAT TRUCK WENT OVER..."



"THERE, NOW YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT GOING TO SLEEP ON WATCH."

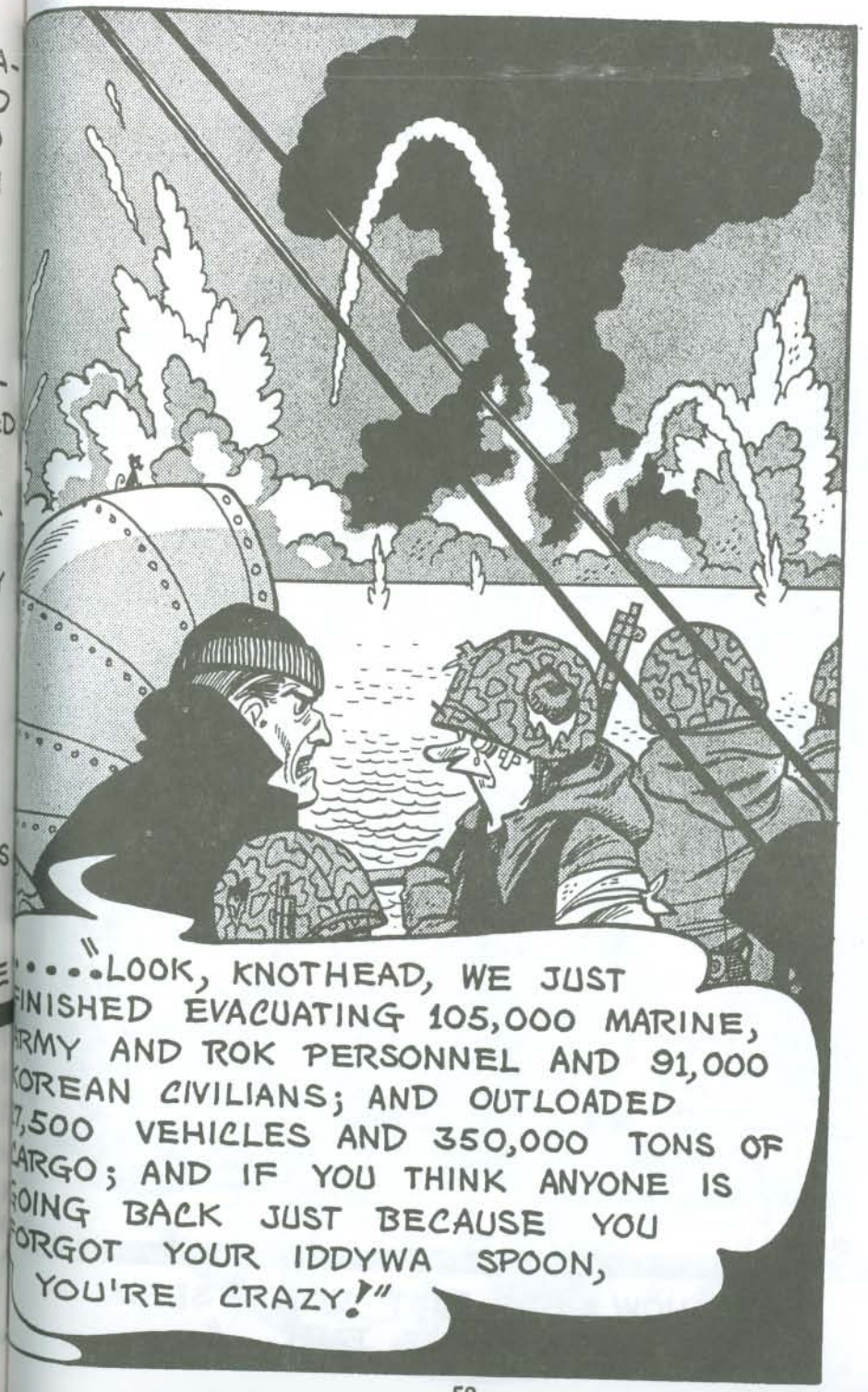


"WELL, IT'S LIKE THIS — AFTER ABOUT A HUNNERT MISSIONS AS A FIGHTER PILOT, THEY FIGGERED I'D BEEN LIVIN' DANGEROUSLY LONG ENOUGH..."

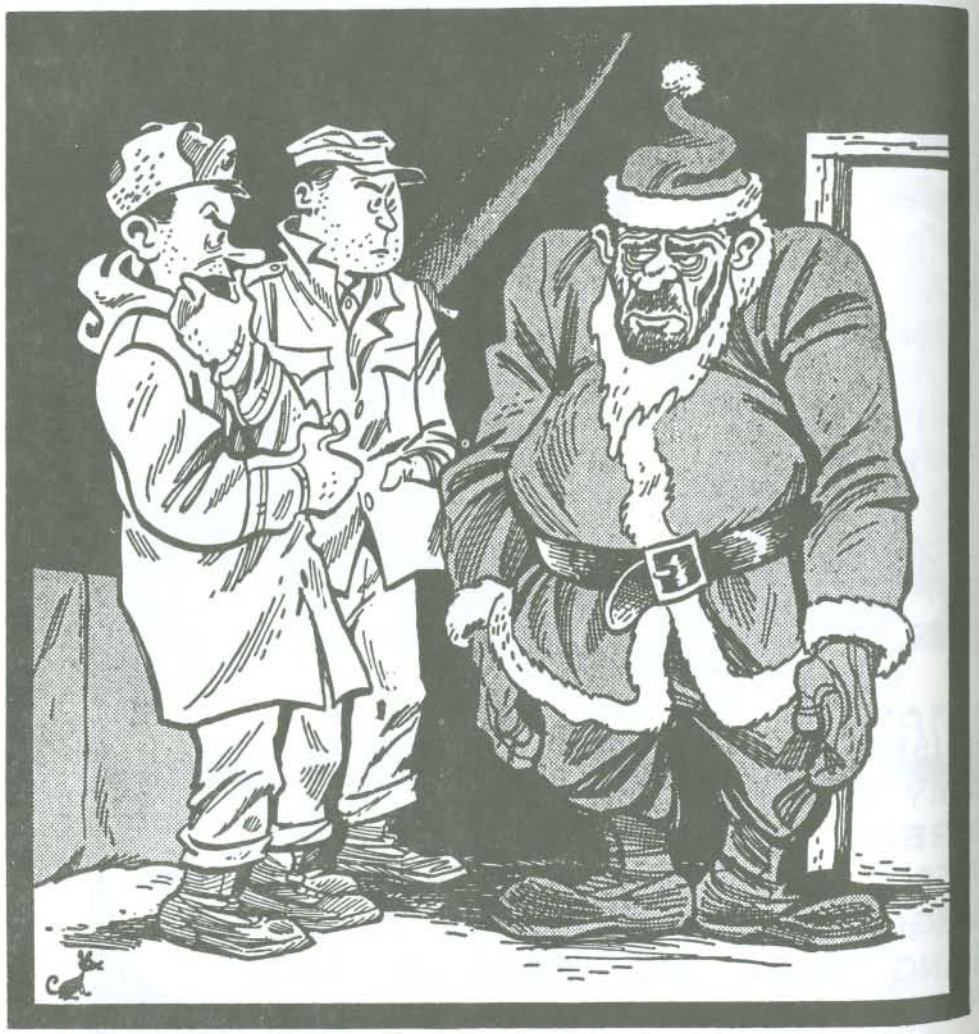
"OH, I DON'T MIND THE ENEMY — BUT I WISH WE COULD GET A CAN-OPENER WITH A HANDLE!"

HOT CHOW AND A WELCOME SHAVE AWAITED THE MARINES AS THEY MARCHED INTO HAMHUNG AFTER TWO WEEKS AND FIFTY-SIX MILES OF FROZEN HELL ON THE ICE-GLAZED ROAD FROM CHOSIN RESERVOIR /// THE PROBLEM NOW WAS HOW TO ASSEMBLE AND EVACUATE THE ENTIRE X CORPS, PLUS THOUSANDS OF KOREAN REFUGEES, AND OUTLOAD THOUSANDS OF VEHICLES AND SEVERAL HUNDRED THOUSAND TONS OF SUPPLIES FROM THE TINY PORT OF HUNGNAM — ALL UNDER THE VERY NOSES OF THE CHINESE FORCES /// IT WAS HERE THAT THE NAVY STEPPED IN TO TAKE OVER THE SHOW WITH ITS OWN PARTICULAR BRAND OF MAGIC /// TO THE ROARING ACCOMPANIMENT OF NAVAL GUNFIRE AND MARINE CLOSE AIR SUPPORT, IT PROCEEDED TO PERFORM A SERIES OF SEAGOING MIRACLES, THE MAGNITUDE OF WHICH IS BEST CONCEIVED BY A LOOK AT THE FINAL TOTALS FROM THE LOGISTIC ADDING MACHINE

WHEN THE LAST ELEMENTS WERE EVACUATED FROM HUNGNAM ON CHRISTMAS DAY, 1950, MOST OF THE FIRST DIVISION WAS RECUPERATING IN THE TROPICAL LUXURY OF MASAN /// FOR A FEW DAYS, AT LEAST, MARINES WERE ABLE TO TAKE OFF THEIR PACKS AND STAND AT EASE...

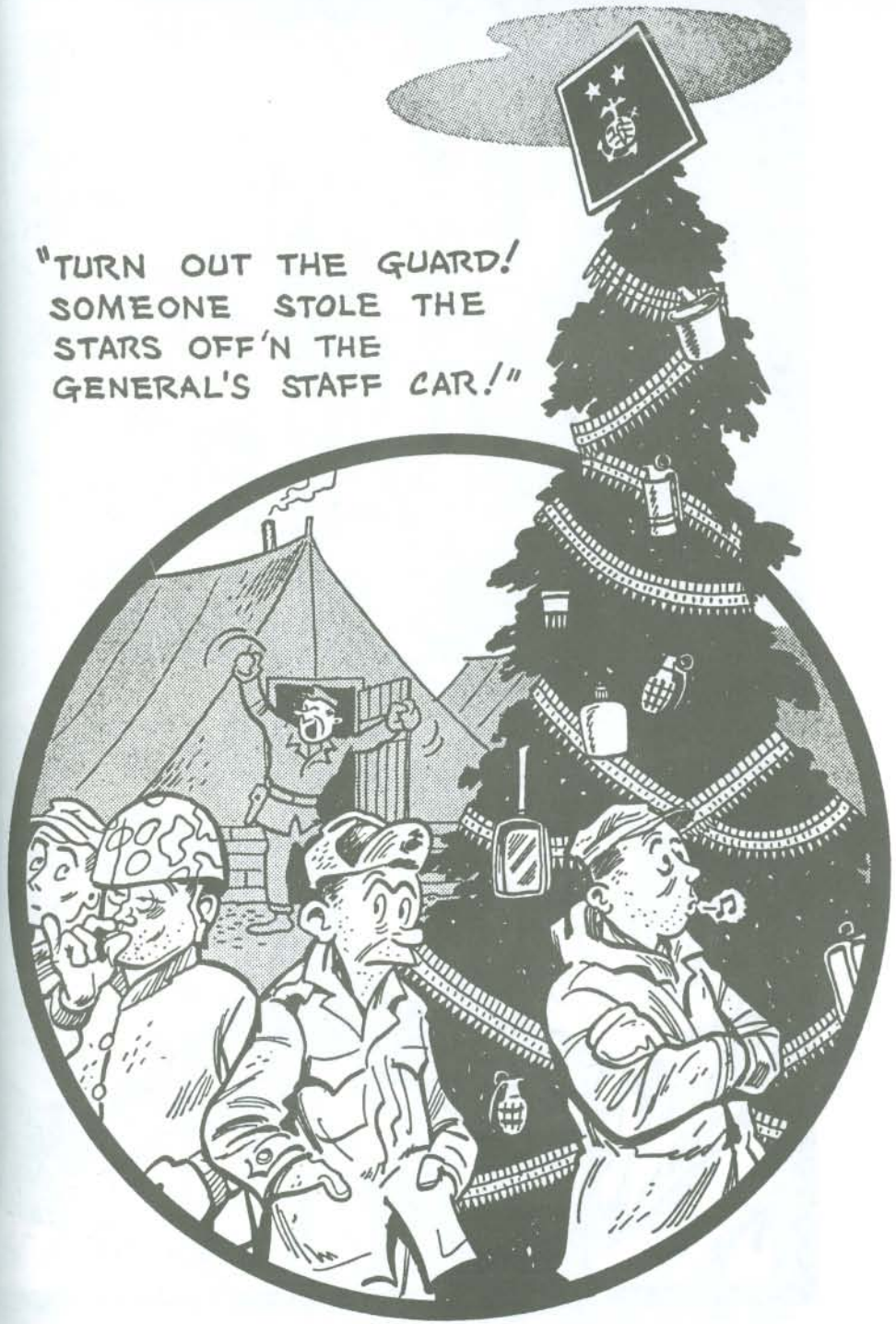


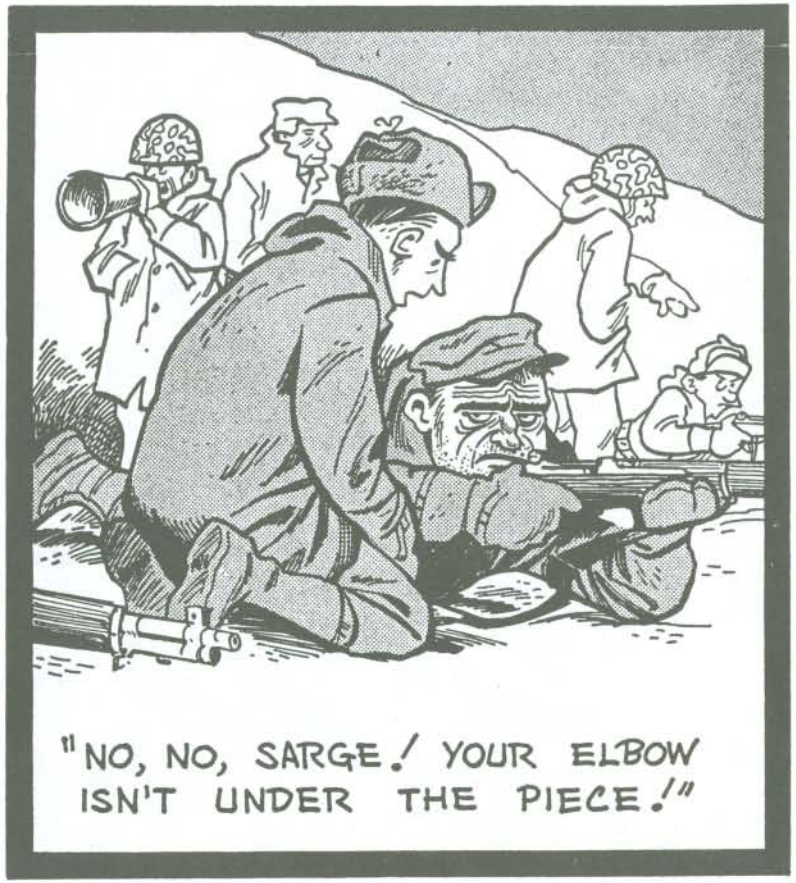
CHRISTMAS, 1950, IN KOREA WAS NOT QUITE WHAT MOST MARINES HAD BECOME ACCUSTOMED TO IN THE STATES, BUT THE FESTIVE SEASON WAS NOT ALLOWED TO PASS WITHOUT PROPER ATTENTION...



"SOMEHOW HE JUST DON'T SEEM TO FIT THE PART..."

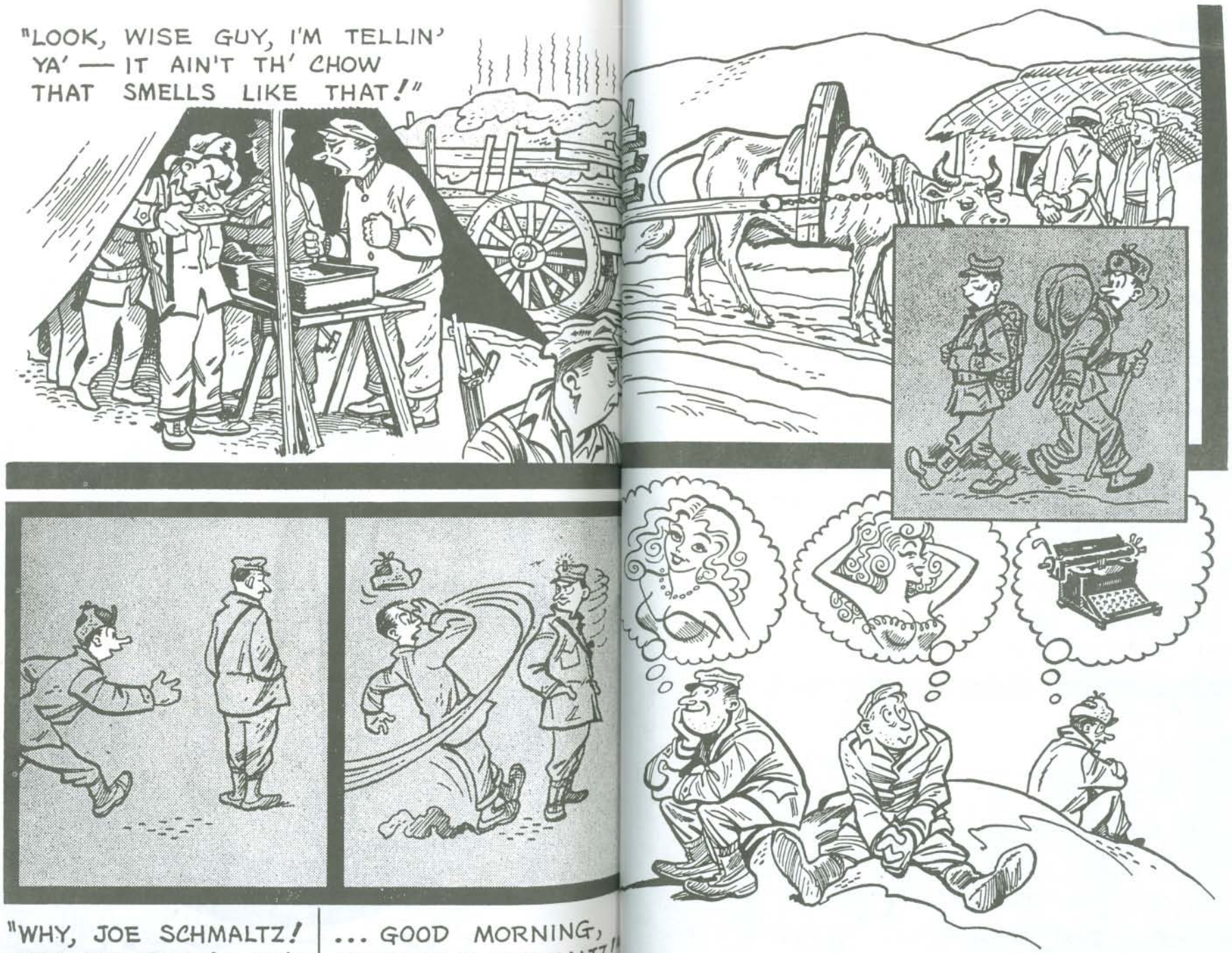
"TURN OUT THE GUARD! SOMEONE STOLE THE STARS OFF'N THE GENERAL'S STAFF CAR!"



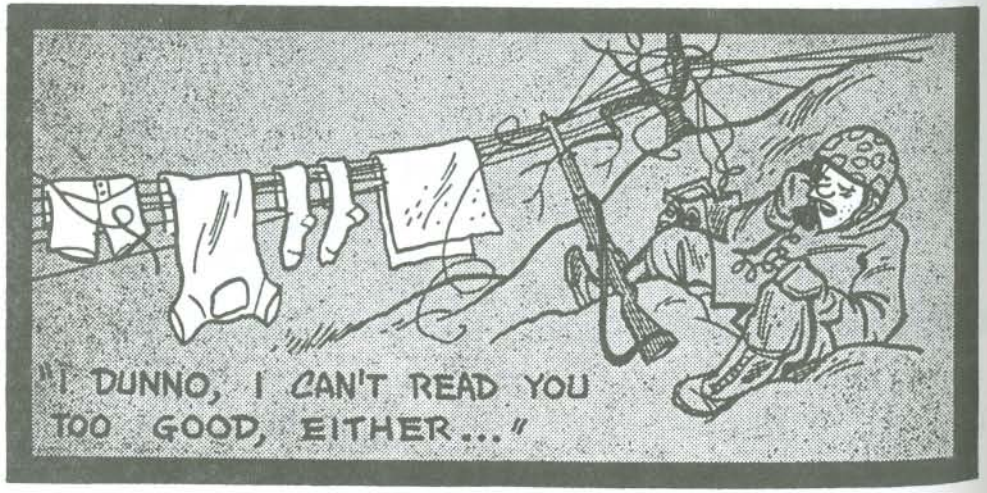


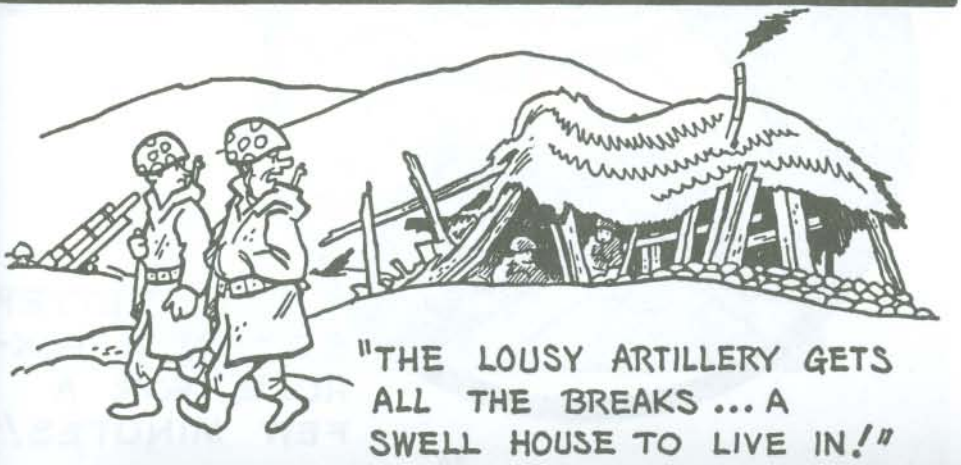
"DOUBLE TIME, HARCH!"

"HE HE HE - HAW HAW - HO HO HO! I BEEN ... YAK YAK YAK ... I BEEN DRAFTED! HO HO - HAW HAW!


"LOOK, WISE GUY, I'M TELLIN' YA' — IT AIN'T TH' CHOW THAT SMELLS LIKE THAT!"
"WHY, JOE SCHMALTZ! YOU OLD BOOT! I AIN'T SEEN YOU SINCE...
... GOOD MORNING, LIEUTENANT SCHMALTZ!

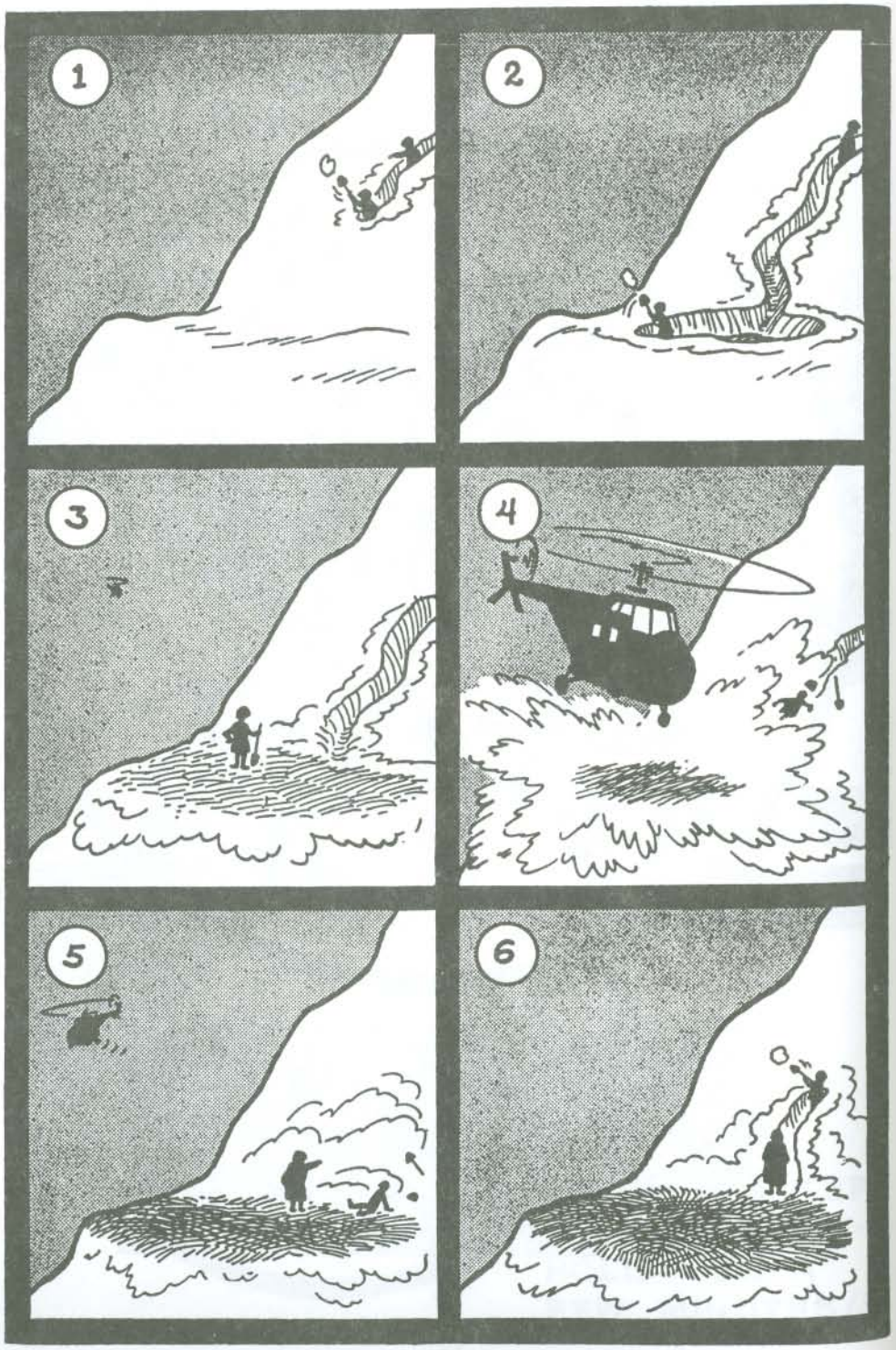
AFTER A BRIEF RESPITE AT MASAN, THE FIRST DIVISION WAS ASSIGNED THE MISSION OF FERRETING OUT AND DESTROYING A NORTH KOREAN DIVISION WHICH HAD INFILTRATED TO THE SOUTH WITH THE AIM OF DISRUPTING UN SUPPLY LINES /// THE MARINES IMMEDIATELY TOOK ADVANTAGE OF THE SITUATION, AS THEY ARE WONT TO DO /// THE VERTICAL TOPOGRAPHY OF THEIR SECTOR MADE IT AN IDEAL TRAINING GROUND FOR HUNDREDS OF NEW REPLACEMENTS, AND LIVE TARGETS WHICH SHOT BACK ADDED THE PROPER SPICE OF DANGER REQUIRED TO KEEP THE BOYS ON THEIR TOES /// WHEN, ON 15 FEBRUARY, THE DIVISION WAS AGAIN COMMITTED TO THE FRONT LINES, THERE WERE NO GREEN TROOPS IN ITS RANKS, FOR THE REPLACEMENTS, BY THAT TIME, HAD ASSISTED IN THE DESTRUCTION OF AN ENTIRE NK DIVISION!





"YOU BETTER GET IN A FOX-HOLE FOR A FEW MINUTES!"

"YOU SHOT HIM! A FEW MORE YARDS AND HE WOULD HAVE HIT MY BOOBY TRAP... AND **YOU** SHOT HIM!"



"ABLE MIKE? DROP ONE MORE IN ABOUT ONE YARD TO THE LEFT AND SHE'LL BE JUST RIGHT FOR A BUNKER!"

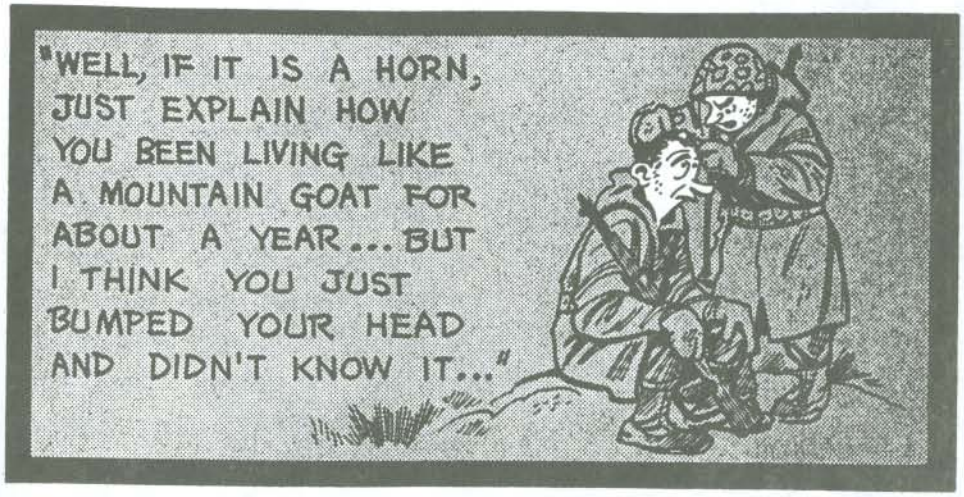
"THINGS COULD BE WORSE... WE COULD BE IN REGIMENTAL RESERVE."

AFTER A CERTAIN PERIOD OF TIME IN KOREA, A MARINE IS NO LONGER THE RUGGED, FEROCIOUS, AGRESSIVE FIGHTING MAN WHICH HE HAS BEEN UP TO THAT POINT /// INSTEAD, HE ASSUMES A NEW SET OF CHARACTERISTICS, AMONG WHICH ARE:

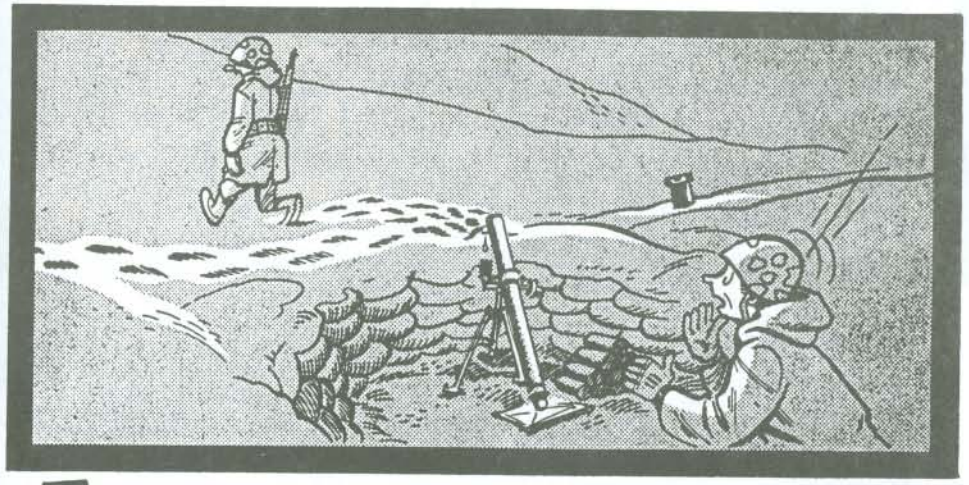
EXTREME CAUTION ON PATROLS...

A TENDENCY TO DISCARD EXCESS GEAR...

A NEW INTEREST IN HIS PERSONAL APPEARANCE...

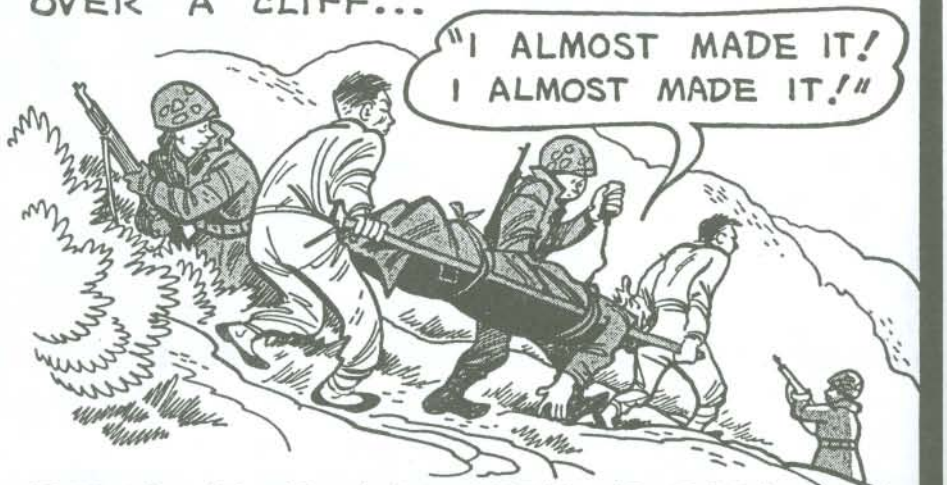


AND AN APATHY TOWARD WAR IN GENERAL AND KOREA IN PARTICULAR...

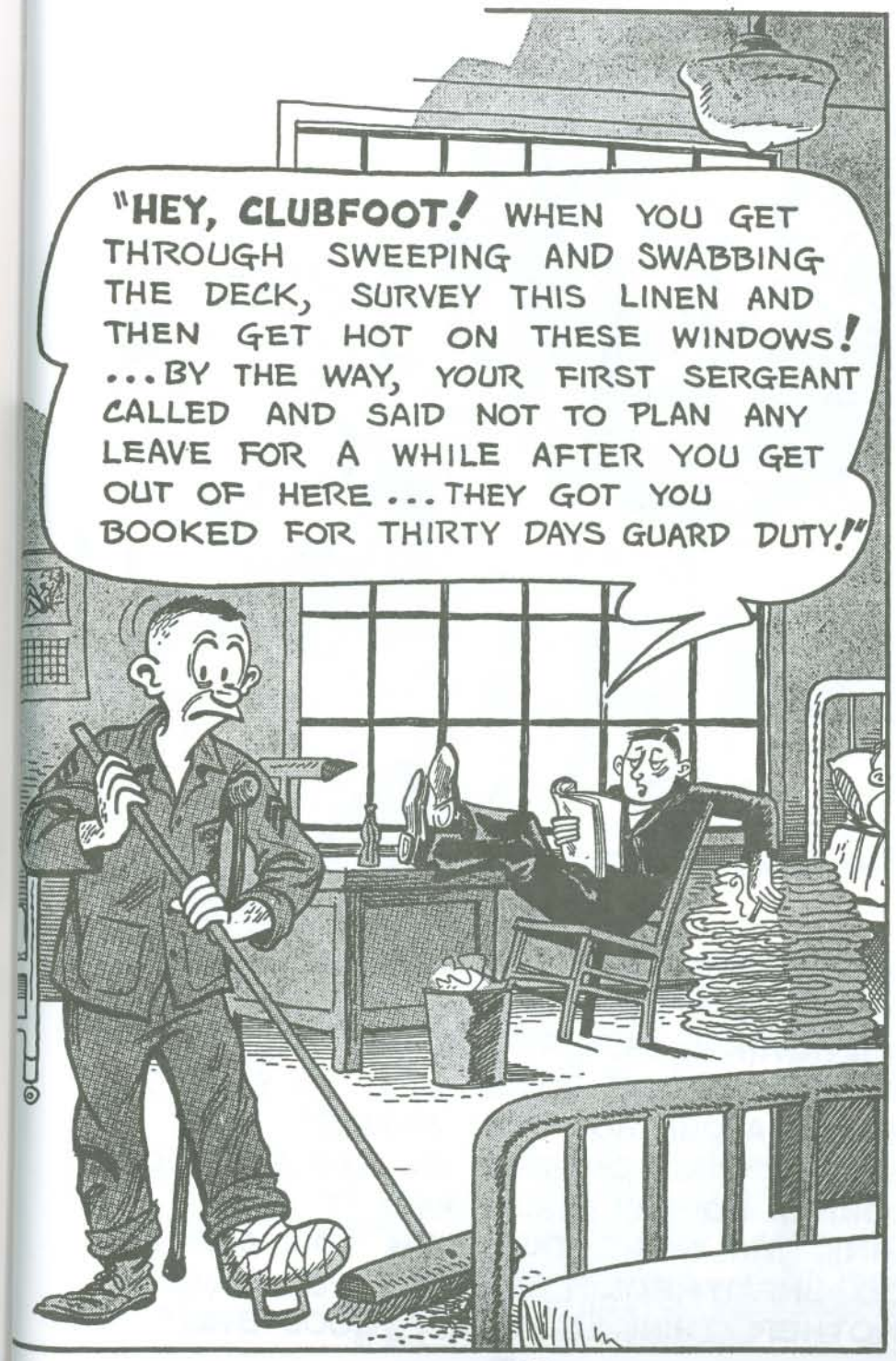


THESE TRAITS DEFINITELY POINT TO THE FACT THAT THE MARINE HAS REACHED THE STAGE WHERE HE IS KNOWN AS A "SHORT TIMER" /// OTHER MARINES LOOK AT HIM WITH AWE AND ENVY, FOR THIS MAN IS ABOUT TO GO HOME!

AT THIS STAGE THE MARINE IS USUALLY SHOT — NOT SERIOUSLY — BUT SHOT... OR ELSE HE IS HIT BY SHRAPNEL, OR A TRUCK, OR FALLS OVER A CLIFF...



IRONIC AS IT MAY SEEM, IT DOES, HOWEVER, ADD A DEGREE OF PRESTIGE WHEN HE GETS STATESIDE, FOR THEN HE IS NOT ONLY A VETERAN, BUT A WOUNDED VETERAN...



"YOU HEARD ME! — I NEVER WANT TO SEE YOU AGAIN! SIX SAILORS AND FOUR SOLDIERS I'VE BEEN GOING WITH HAVE TOLD ME ALL ABOUT HOW YOU MARINES HAVE BEEN CARRYING ON WITH ALL THOSE GOOD-LOOKING KOREAN GIRLS, AND IF YOU THINK I'M GOING OUT WITH YOU AGAIN, YOU UNFAITHFUL CASANOVA, YOU HAVE ANOTHER THINK COMING! GOOD BYE!"

Korean Phrases

The Secretary of Defense recommends that all members of our Armed Forces in Korea familiarize themselves with the Korean language on the theory that knowledge of the language will help one get along better with the people of the country. Most Marines, however, found it more convenient to teach English to the Koreans.

GREETINGS AND GENERAL PHRASES

English	*Pronunciation*
I greet you for the first time	CHUH-oom perp?SOOM-nee-dah
How do you do?	AHN-n'yung hah-SIM-nik-gah?

For "Good morning" you really say:

Have you had a good rest?	AHN-n'yung-hee choo-moo-suss-SOOM-nik-gah?

For "Good evening" you really say:

Have you had your evening meal?	CHUN-yuk chahp-soo-suss-SOOM--nik-gah?
Sir or Mr.	SUN-sang
Madam or Mrs.	POO-in
Miss	YAHNG

When used with proper names, these terms of address follow the noun.

Please excuse me.	YAWNG-suh hah-SIP-see-yaw

When you approach a stranger on the street and want to ask for some information, it is polite to start by saying:

May I ask you a question?	MAHL-soom .CHAWM .MOO-ruh PAWP-see-dah?
Thank you	kaw-mahp-SOOM-nee-dah.
Where is the nearest town?	CHAY-il KAHK-gah-oon TAWNG-nen-oon UDD-it-SOOM-nik-gah?
Do you understand me?	AH-rah took-gess-Soom-nik-gah?
Yes	N YAY
I understand	AH-rah took-gess-SOOM-nee dah
No	AH-NYAY

WHAT'S THIS?

When you want to know the name of something you can say "What's this?" and point to the thing you mean.

What's this?	EE-guss-oon moo-uh-SIM-nik-gah?

ASKING FOR THINGS

When you want something, you first name the thing wanted and then add the phrase "Please give me."

Please give me cigarettes	CHAWM choo-SIP-see-yaw TAHM-ba
Please give me some cigarettes	TAHM-ba CHAWM choo-SIP-see-yaw

Here are the words for some of the things you may require.

Food (in the country	MUG-*ool*-GUT
food (in the city)	OOM-sik
water	MOOL
eggs	KAY-rahn
soup	KOOK
vegetables	*CH*ASS-aw
meat	KAWG-ee
chicken	TAHK KAWG-ee
fish	SANG-sun
beef	SAW KAWG-ee
pork	TWAJ-ee KAWG-ee
cooked rice	PAHP

ADDITIONAL EXPRESSIONS

I'm hungry	SEE-jahng HAHM-nee-dah
I'm thirsty	MAWG mah-ROOM-nee dah
I'm lost	NAH-noon KEE-rool eer-huss-SOOM-nee-dah
I'm sick	NAH-noon-pyung-ee-nat-SOOM-nee-dah
I'm tired	NAH-noon CHAWM KAW-dahn HAHM-nee-dah
I'm wounded	NAH-noon CHAWM tahch-huss-SOOM-nee-dah
Stop! (to someone running away)	KUG-ee sut-suh